



Large Mammal Advisory Committee Antelope Fixed-wing surveys Progress Report

Dates: January, 2012. Northeastern CA and San Luis Obispo County

Annual counts:

These counts are conducted by the unit biologist and an additional observer utilizing the Departments aircraft following standard fixed wing survey protocol.

Statement of Need:

It is the goal of the pronghorn antelope program to survey these areas on a yearly basis in an effort to track changes in herd distribution, composition, and numbers. Data are needed to monitor populations within these areas as well as set harvest quotas, season length, and justify additional hunts should the data support them.

NORTHEASTERN CALIFORNIA PRONGHORN ANTELOPE COUNTS

<u>Year</u>	<u>Number Counted</u>	<u>Surprise Valley Population</u>	<u>Basic Population</u>
1989	7,018	0	7,018
1990	7,493	Not Surveyed	7,493
1991	7,294	Not Surveyed	7,294
1992	7,908	0	7,908
1993	5,085	Not Surveyed	5,085
1994	5,160	0	5,160
1995	5,437	Not Surveyed	5,437
1996	4,681	0	4,681
1997	5,039	Not Surveyed	5,039
1998	4,696	90	4,786
1999	4,811	Not Surveyed	4,960**
2000	4,230	Not Surveyed	4,361**
2001	2,771	Not Surveyed	2,857**
2002	4,273	Not Surveyed	4,405**
2003	3,854	Not Surveyed	3,970**
2004	4,087	Not Surveyed	4,210**
2005	4,307	Not Surveyed	4,436**
2006	4,131	Not Surveyed	4,254**
2007	3,570	Not Surveyed	3,677**
2008	4,039	Not Surveyed	4,160**
2009	4,634	Not Surveyed	4,773**
2010	3,693	Not Surveyed	3,804**
2011	3,836	Not Surveyed	3,951**

**Population estimate based on adjustment. To obtain the population estimate, the numbers of antelope counted were adjusted by 3% to account for polygons not surveyed.

Antelope Surveys – San Luis Obispo County

DATE	TOTAL	BUCKS	DOES	FAWNS	
Sep-99	64	10	43	11	
Oct-99	87	12	65	10	
Jan-01	138	18	120	0	
Jan-02	145	32	113	0	
Jan-03	168	27	141	0	
May-03	55	15	36	4	*Carrizo and Cal Valley only
Jul-03	139	15	86	38	
Jan-04	87	14	60	13	*Carrizo and Cal Valley only
Jun-04	47	8	27	12	*Carrizo and Cal Valley only
Jul-04	113	13	76	24	
Aug-04	102	15	63	26	Carrizo and Parkfield only
Dec-04	52	?	?	?	Carrizo only- lost group of 11 for comp
Jan-05	176	48	128	0	
Jan-06	196	31	164	2	Carrizo, Cal Valley, and Parkfield only
Jul-06	164	31	88	46	Carrizo & Cal Valley only
Jan-07	137	32	105		
Feb-08	165	49	116	0	Carrizo and Cal Valley Only
Jul-08	149	37	84	28	Carrizo and Cal Valley Only
Feb-09	121	33	88	0	Carrizo and Cal Valley Only
Jul-09	90	20	52	18	Carrizo and Cal Valley Only
July -11	59	12	35	12	all

Additional Information:

Since 1999, polygons (count blocks) have been stratified to count 18 of the 29 previously identified winter range polygons that had the highest number of antelope based on all surveys completed in 1953 through 1998. This stratification resulted in a set of polygons that averaged 97% of the total population based on the earlier surveys. This reduction in survey effort was done to reduce flight time, reduce costs, and improve flight safety without significantly reducing survey accuracy and utility. Before 1999, an aerial survey using fixed wing aircraft was attempted of all known winter ranges in Lassen, Modoc, Shasta, and Siskiyou counties.