



# News Release

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Southwest Region (Arizona • New Mexico • Oklahoma • Texas) <http://southwest.fws.gov>  
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## For Immediate Release

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## Federal Agencies Announce Modified Road Closures To Protect Sonoran Pronghorn

In order to continue to protect the endangered Sonoran pronghorn during fawning season, seasonal road closures will again take effect on public lands near Ajo: Organ Pipe Cactus National Monument, Bureau of Land Management, Barry M. Goldwater Range and Cabeza Prieta National Wildlife Refuge. The onset of the seasonal closure begins on **March 15, 2012** as determined by the Sonoran Pronghorn Recovery Team. The seasonal closure will remain in effect until **July 15, 2012**. A map of the roads and areas affected by this closure is available upon request at the Cabeza Prieta National Wildlife Refuge Office.

Each year, the Sonoran Pronghorn Recovery Teams determines the onset of the seasonal closure based upon rainfall and resulting forage conditions available for this desert ranging pronghorn. The seasonal closure was enacted to minimize disturbance to adult does and their fawns during the spring and early summer when the fawns are most vulnerable. Please contact individual agencies for further information regarding closures.

Only one Sonoran Pronghorn population exists in the United States. An estimated 85% of the U.S. population died during a severe drought in 2001 and 2002, and the remaining U.S. population is currently estimated at just over 100 animals.

North America's fastest land animal, the Sonoran Pronghorn is related to four other subspecies of Pronghorn in western North America. The Sonoran Pronghorn was listed as "endangered" in 1967 under the Endangered Species Preservation Act. Endangered species status means that a plant or animal is "...in danger of extinction throughout all or a significant portion of its range." The three subspecies that occur in Mexico are protected under Mexican law.

The United States and Mexico are currently engaged in an international effort to capture and breed the Sonoran Pronghorn for reintroduction into suitable habitats. Capture-breed-transplant actions are considered essential to the survival of the Sonoran pronghorn because the Sonoran pronghorn (commonly referred to as 'antelope') is now one of the most endangered mammals in the world.

The U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service is the principal Federal agency responsible for conserving, protecting and enhancing fish, wildlife and plants and their habitats for the continuing benefit of the

American people. The Service manages the 95-million-acre National Wildlife Refuge System, which encompasses 544 national wildlife refuges, thousands of small wetlands and other special management areas. It also operates 69 national fish hatcheries, 64 fishery resources offices and 81 ecological services field stations. The agency enforces federal wildlife laws, administers the Endangered Species Act, manages migratory bird populations, restores nationally significant fisheries, conserves and restores wildlife habitat such as wetlands, and helps foreign and Native American tribal governments with their conservation efforts. It also oversees the Federal Assistance program, which distributes hundreds of millions of dollars in excise taxes on fishing and hunting equipment to state fish and wildlife agencies.

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