

# ***2010 Pronghorn Production Surveys***

## PERFORMANCE REPORT STATEWIDE WILDLIFE RESEARCH AND SURVEYS

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## 2010 Pronghorn Production Surveys

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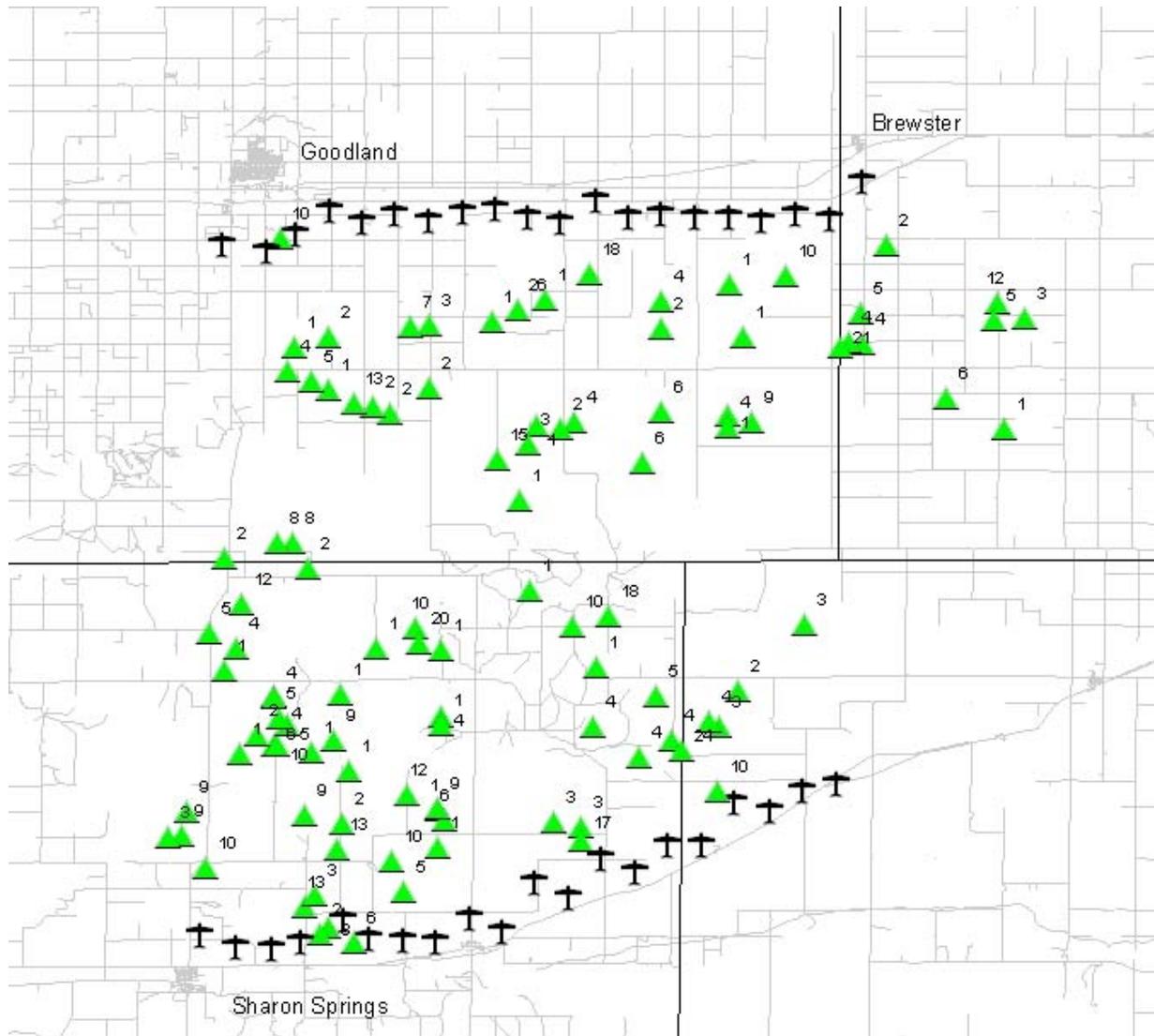
The 2010 aerial pronghorn production surveys have been completed. Total numbers of pronghorn observed in each pronghorn hunting unit and their respective buck:doe:fawn ratios are presented in **Table 1**. Survey routes and location of pronghorn observations for each hunting unit are provided in **Figures 1-3**.

Buck:doe ratios decreased by 7 from last year's statewide average of 49 bucks per 100 does (**Figure 4**), but remained equal to the five-year average (42b:100d). The published ratio for maximum trophy production is 50 bucks per 100 does, and buck ratios have been in the vicinity of 40:100 or higher for six of the last seven years. Ratios in units 2 and 17 decreased by 11 and 12 bucks per doe, respectively, but remain well within the acceptable level. Ratios in unit 18 were the highest recorded for that unit. Firearms pronghorn hunting will be initiated in unit 18 for the first time this upcoming season, partly as a result of the increasing buck ratios observed during this survey in past years. Based on cumulative buck ratios, hunting prospects are good again this year when considered within modern context.

Fawn:doe ratios increased by 3 from last year's statewide average of 59 fawns per 100 does (**Figure 5**), but remained below the five-year average (69f:100d). This year's ratio of 62 fawns per 100 does falls just within the level considered to be good recruitment (60 fawns per 100 does). Fawn ratios don't greatly influence hunter satisfaction with the current year's hunt, but are a predictor of things to come. As a result of similar recruitment rates in previous years' surveys, the Department has been gradually increasing permit allocations so as to better meet hunter demand for permits. But by maintaining harvest rates reflective of previous years' fawn ratios, buck ratios, which are of great interest to most hunters, are being maintained at moderate to high levels despite the increase in hunting opportunity.

**Table 1. Results of summer 2010 aerial pronghorn production survey for each pronghorn hunting unit.**

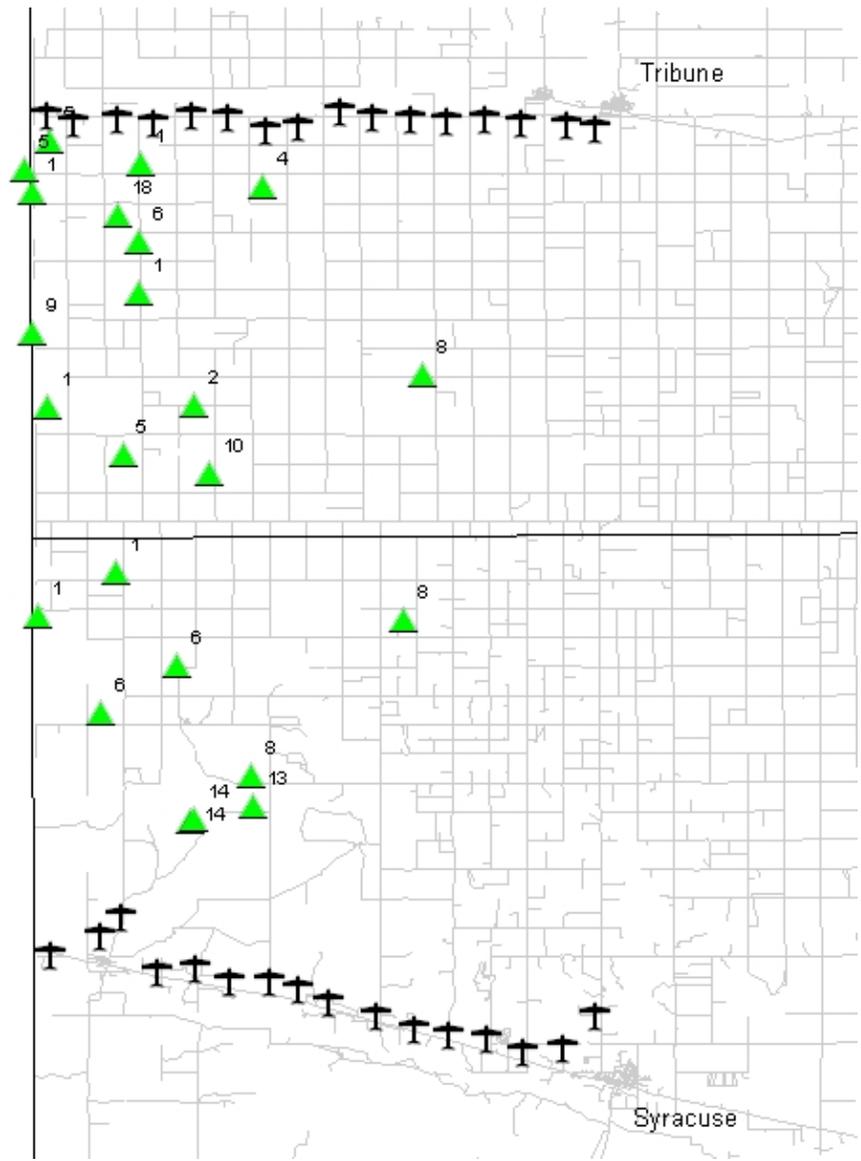
Unit	Ratio			Actual Number		
	Bucks	Does	Fawns	Bucks	Does	Fawns
2	45	100	62	130	291	180
17	36	100	68	29	80	54
18	40	100	56	22	55	31
Total	42	100	62	181	426	265



▲ Location and number of pronghorn observed

✝ 2010 Summer Route

**Figure 1. Unit 2 – Survey route and pronghorn observations (Sherman, Wallace, Thomas and Logan Counties).**



-  Location and number of pronghorn observed
-  2010 Summer Route

**Figure 2. Unit 17 – Survey route and pronghorn observations (Hamilton and Greeley Counties).**



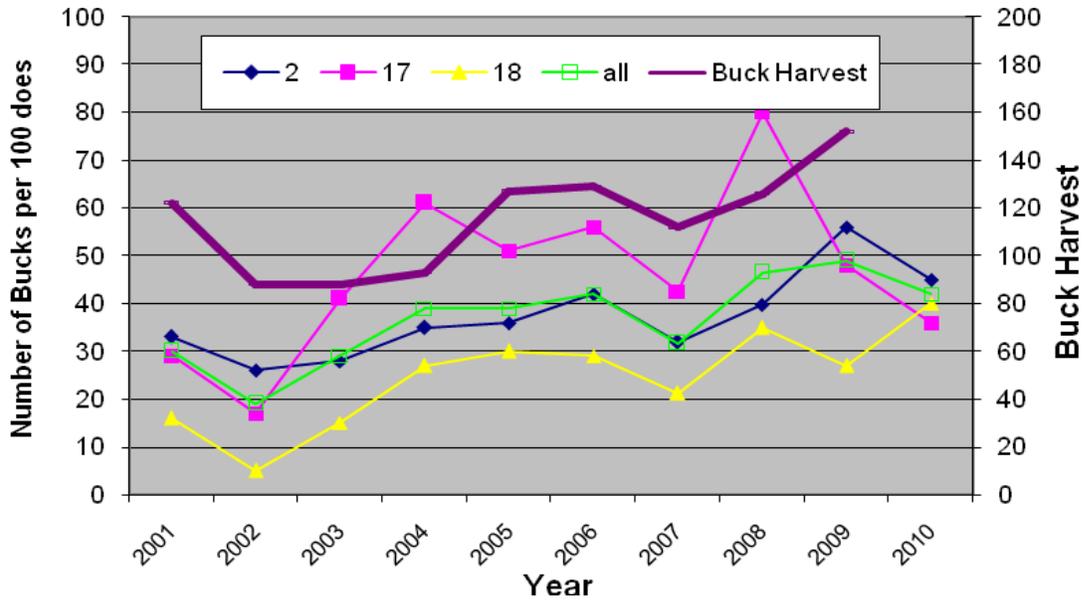


Figure 4. Number of pronghorn bucks per 100 does for each unit since 2001, and total annual buck harvest

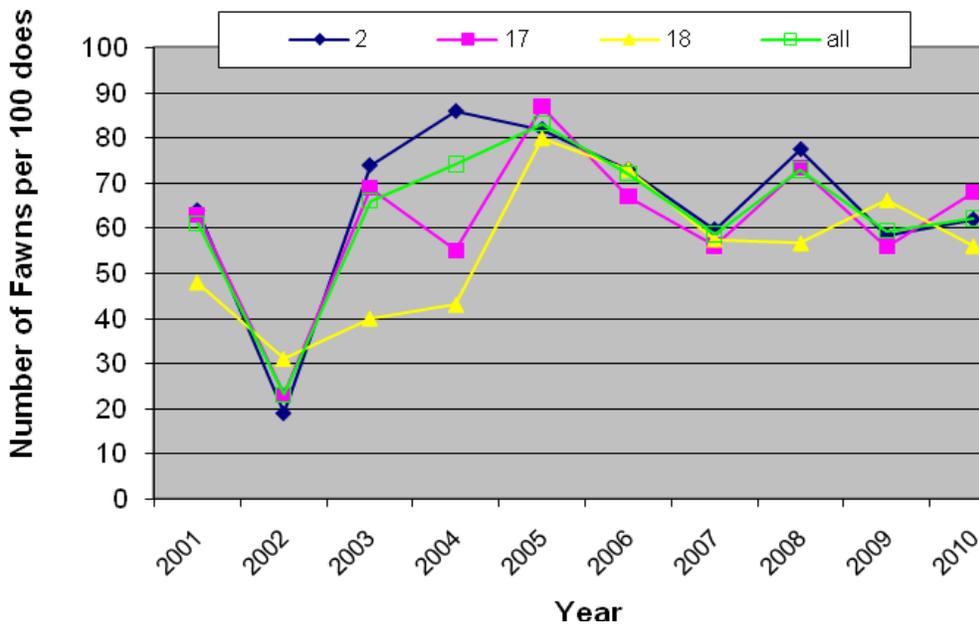


Figure 5. Number of pronghorn fawns per 100 does for each unit since 2001.