

2009 Pronghorn Production Surveys

PERFORMANCE REPORT STATEWIDE WILDLIFE RESEARCH AND SURVEYS

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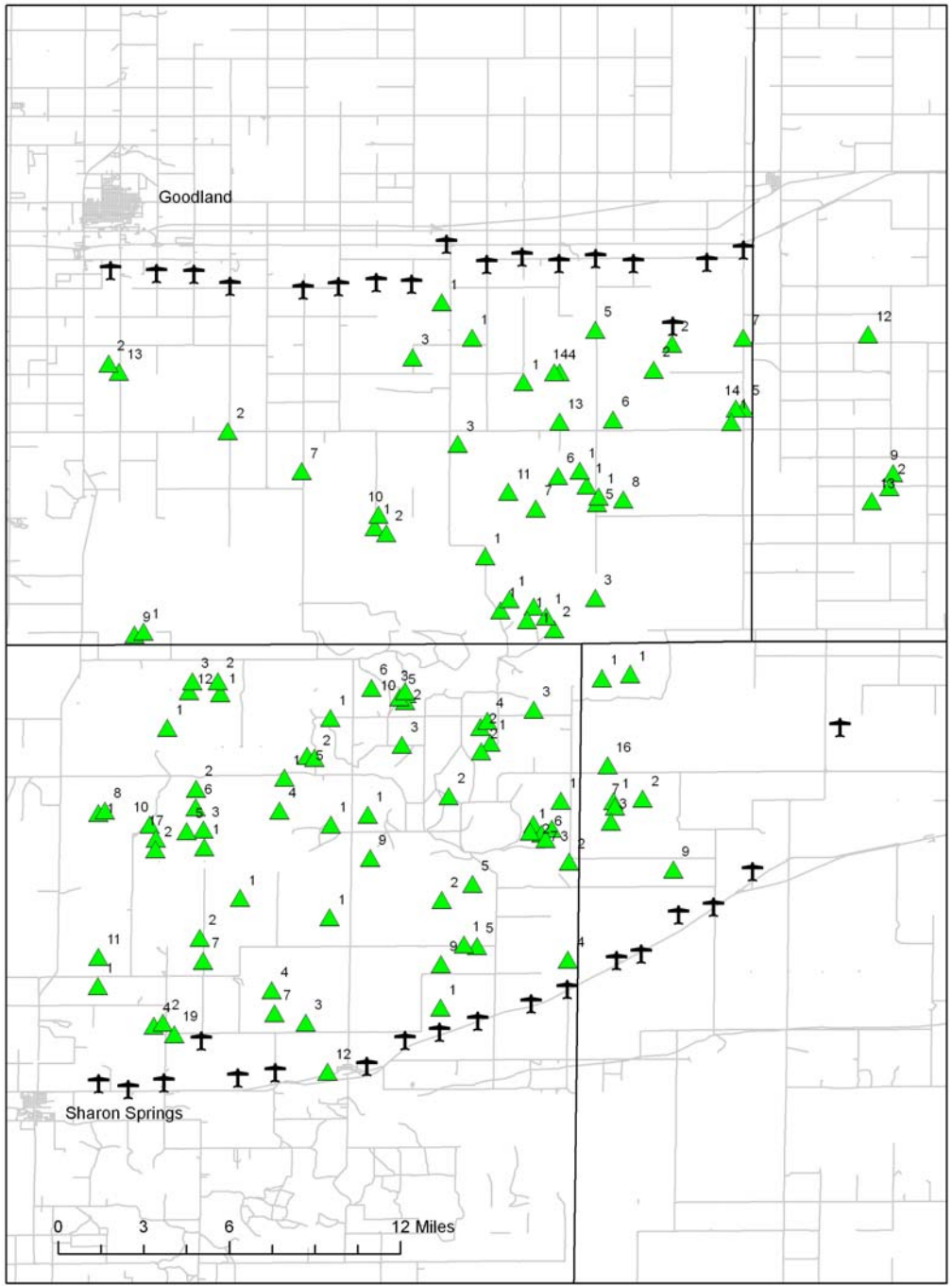
The 2009 aerial pronghorn production surveys have been completed. Total numbers of pronghorn observed in each pronghorn hunting unit and their respective buck:doe:fawn ratios are presented in **Table 1**. Survey routes and location of pronghorn observations for each hunting unit are provided in **Figures 1-3**.

Buck:doe ratios increased slightly from last year's statewide average of 47 bucks per 100 does (**Figure 4**). The current ratio of 49 bucks per 100 does is the highest average recorded since 1996. 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 five of the last six years. Unit 17 had maintained a higher buck:doe ratio than the other units since 2002, but was surpassed this year by Unit 2. Unit 18 buck:doe ratios remain lower than those in other units despite a recorded annual harvest of just 10 or so pronghorn. This level of harvest is not expected to impact buck ratios, even based on conservative production and population estimates. Based on cumulative buck ratios, hunting prospects are very good this year when considered within modern context.

Following a year of good recruitment, fawn:doe ratios declined by 14 fawns per 100 does (**Figure 5**). This year's ratio of 59 fawns per 100 does is still respectable, falling just below the level considered to be good recruitment (60 fawns per 100 does). Under these recruitment rates, it is believed the current approximate harvest levels can be maintained without drastically influencing buck ratios, which are of great interest to most hunters.

Table 1. Results of summer 2009 aerial pronghorn production survey for each pronghorn hunting unit.

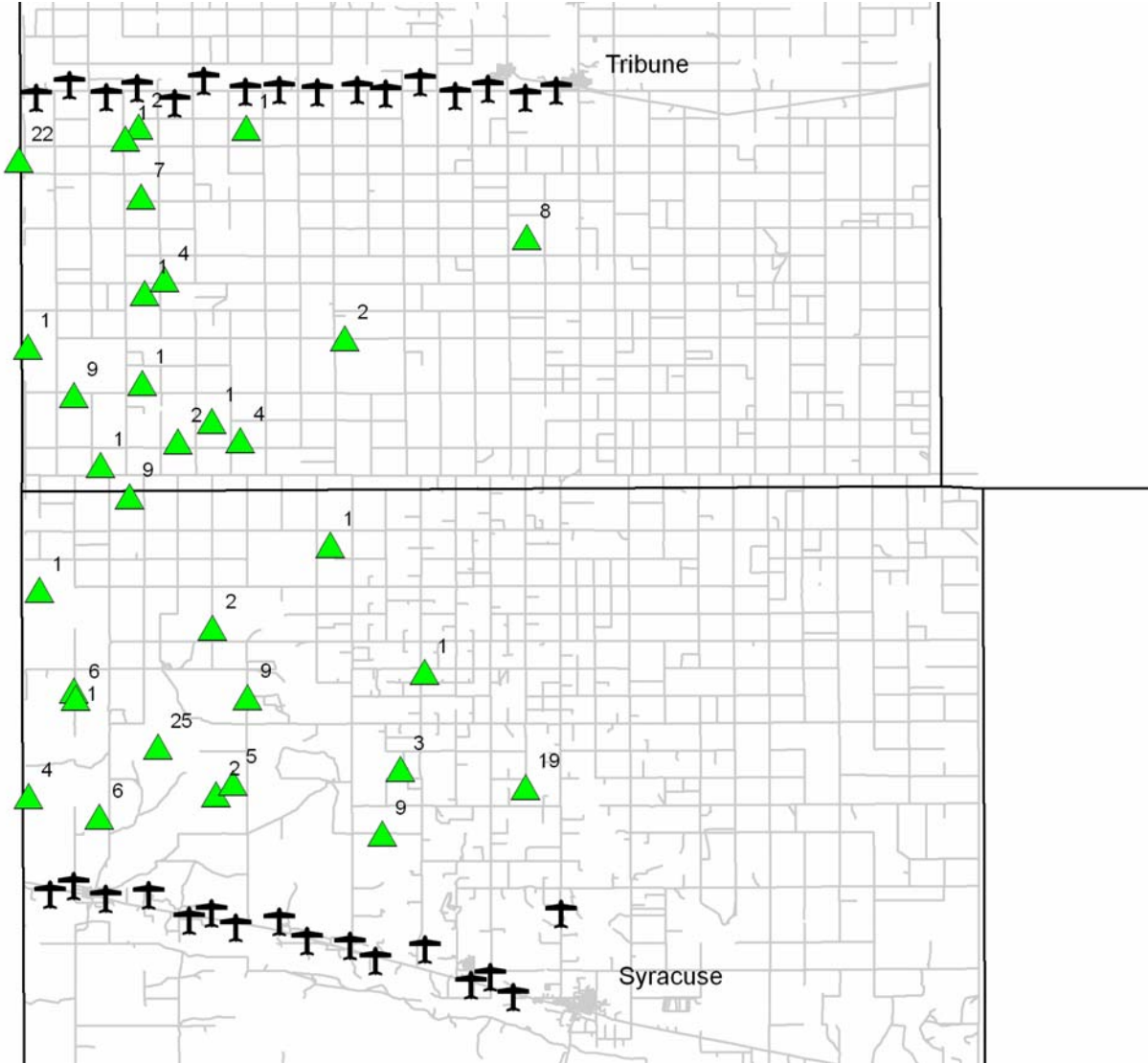
Unit	Ratio			Actual Number		
	Bucks	Does	Fawns	Bucks	Does	Fawns
2	56	100	58	139	250	146
17	48	100	56	40	84	47
18	27	100	66	19	71	47
Total	49	100	59	198	405	240



▲ Location and number of pronghorn observed

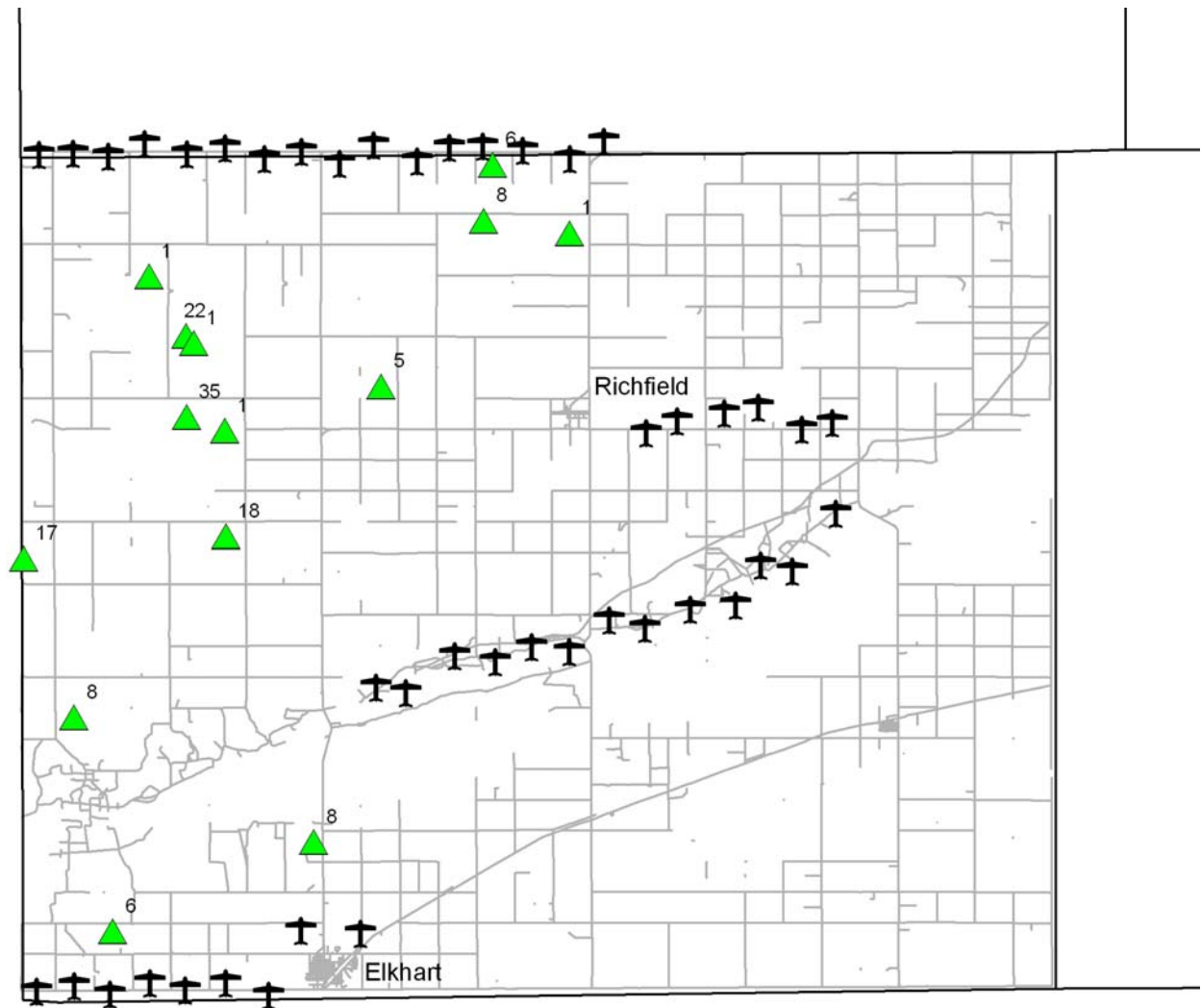
⊥ 2009 Summer Route

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



- ▲ Location and number of pronghorn observed
- ⊕ 2009 Summer Route

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



▲ Location and number of pronghorn observed

⊥ 2009 Summer Route

Figure 3. Unit 18 – Survey route and pronghorn observations (Morton County).

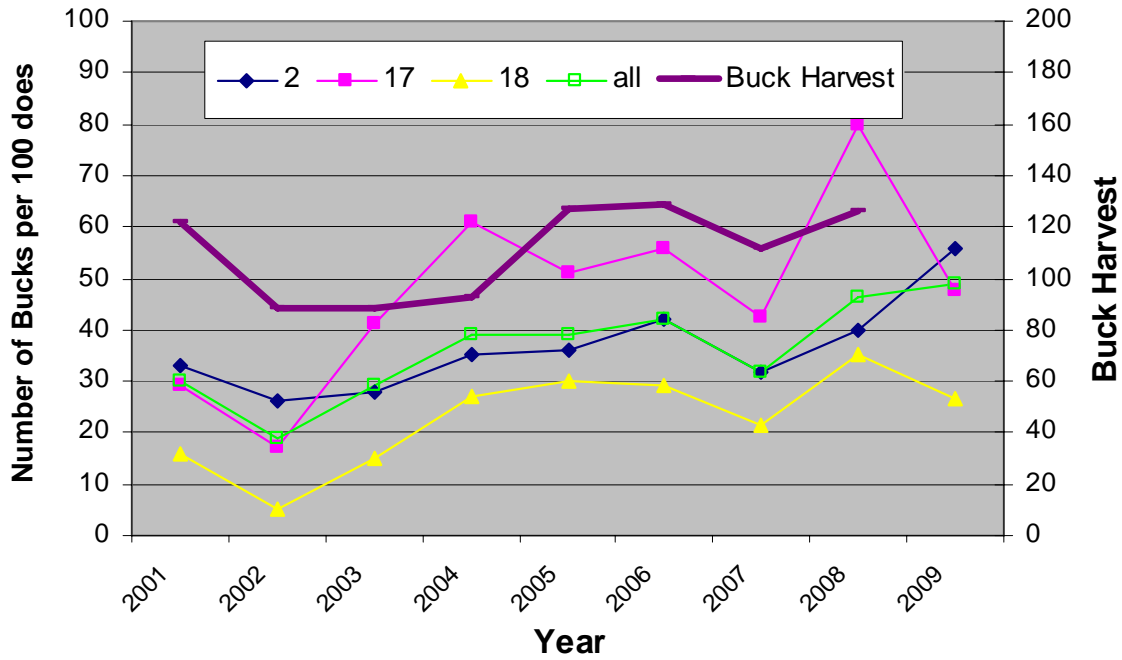


Figure 4. Number of pronghorn bucks per 100 does for each unit since 2001, and total annual buck harvest

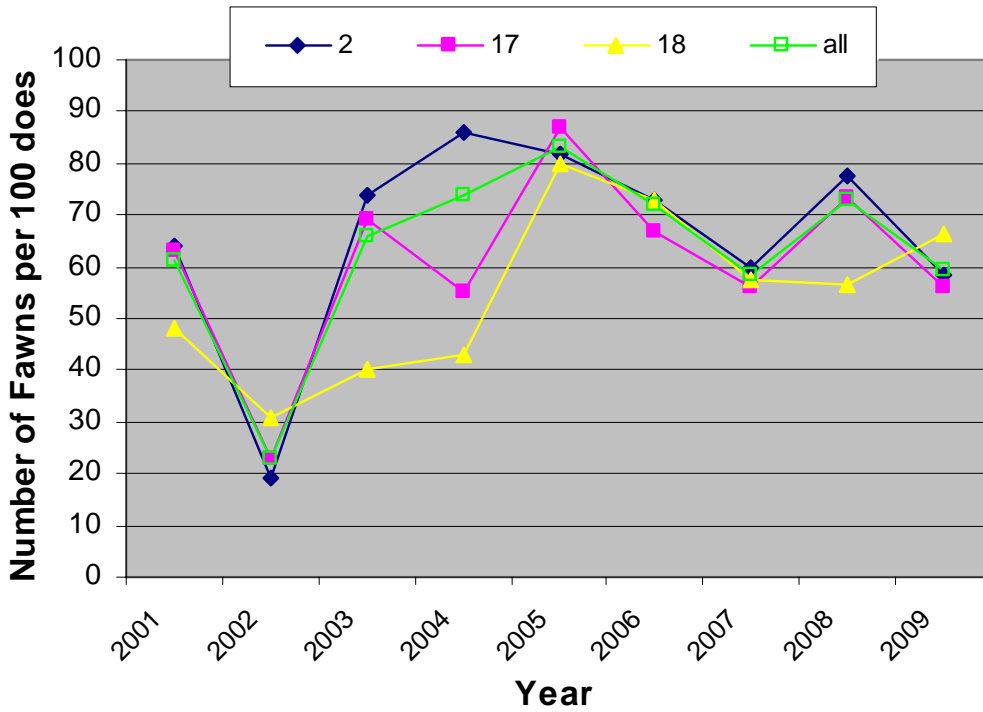


Figure 5. Number of pronghorn fawns per 100 does for each unit since 2001.