

2007 Pronghorn Production Surveys

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2007 Pronghorn Production Surveys

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The 2007 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 approximately 10 bucks per 100 does from last year's statewide average of 42 bucks per 100 does (**Figure 4**). The current ratio of 32 bucks per 100 does sets in the middle of 7-year values, with three years with lower ratios (2001-2003) and three years with higher ratios (2004-2006). The decreasing buck ratios may be reflective of the increased buck harvests over the past two seasons, which is represented in figure 4. The cumulative buck ratio falls between recognized ratios for maximum recruitment (25:100) and trophy production (50:100), but appears significantly lower in unit 18 than the other units. The low ratios in unit 18 are difficult to explain, and are not thought to be related to legal hunting pressures. Only 5-10 pronghorn have been harvested out of this unit annually in recent years, which is far below the level of harvest that would be expected to impact buck ratios based on even the most conservative production and population estimates.

Fawn:doe ratios declined for the second year in a row, but remained slightly above the 10-year average of 55 fawns per 100 does (**Figure 5**). Given the similarity of fawn ratios between the units, it does not appear the previous winter's severe storms, which were predominant in the northern part of the pronghorn range, had any major impact on production.

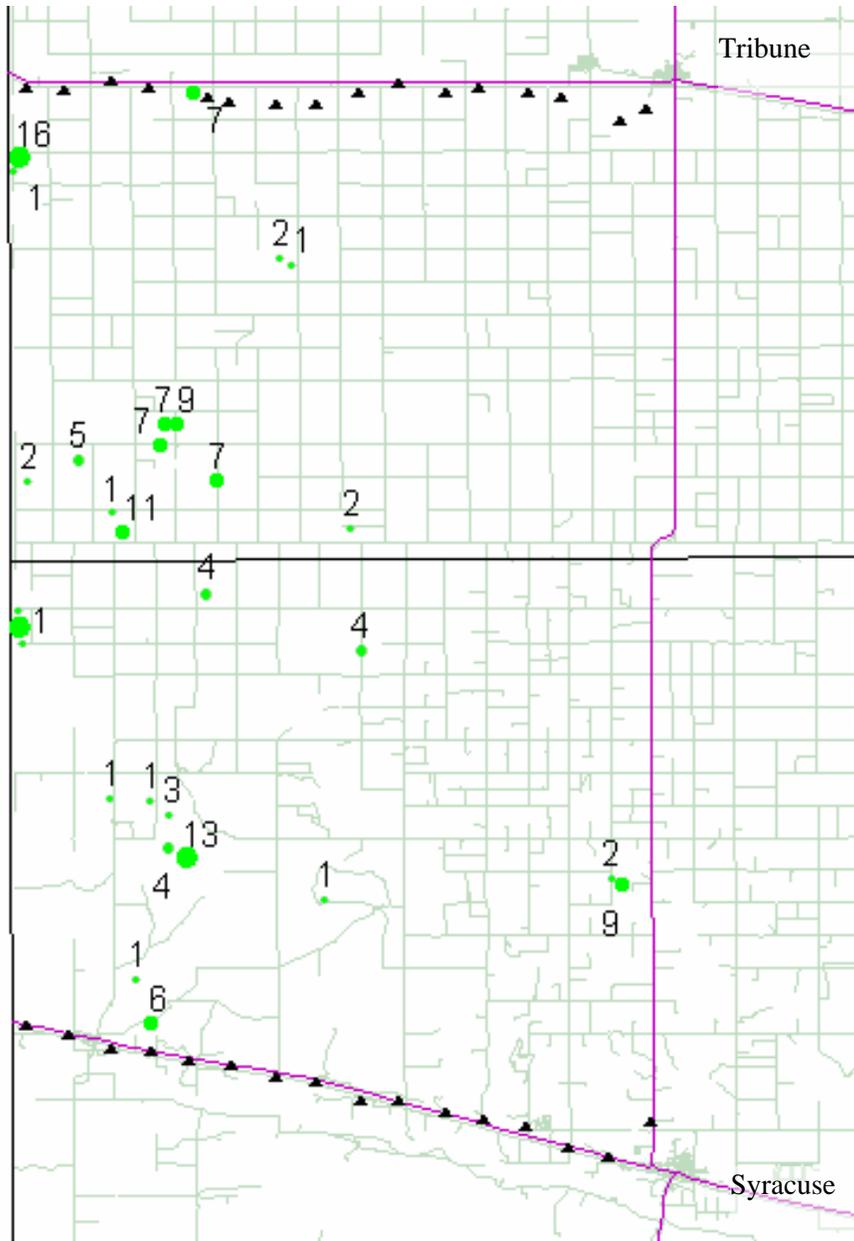
Data for the small Flinthills population is presented in **Table 2**. Only 17 pronghorn were observed, which is down from previous years. However, two of the observers were on their first aerial pronghorn survey, and the likelihood of having missed pronghorn is higher than usual.

Table 1. Results of summer 2007 aerial pronghorn production survey for each pronghorn hunting unit.

Unit	Ratio			Actual Number		
	Bucks	Does	Fawns	Bucks	Does	Fawns
2	32	100	60	62	194	116
17	42	100	56	31	73	41
18	21	100	58	17	80	46
Total	32	100	59	110	347	203

Table 2. Results of summer 2007 aerial pronghorn production survey for the Chase Co (Flinthills) population.

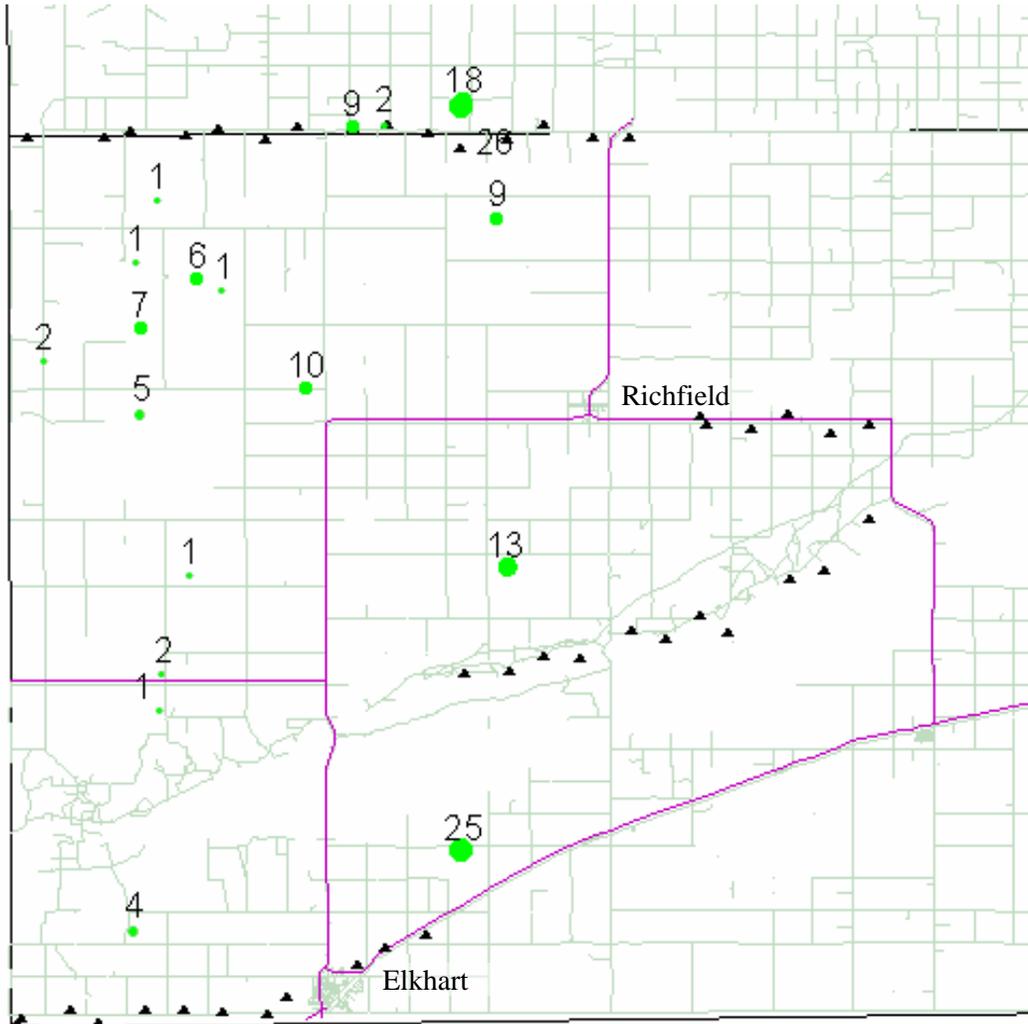
Unit	Ratio			Actual Number		
	Bucks	Does	Fawns	Bucks	Does	Fawns
Chase Co	250	100	75	10	4	3



▲ 2007 Summer Route

● Location and number of pronghorn observed

Figure 2. Unit 17 – Survey route and pronghorn observations (HM & GL Counties).



▲ 2007 Summer Route

● Location and number of pronghorn observed

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

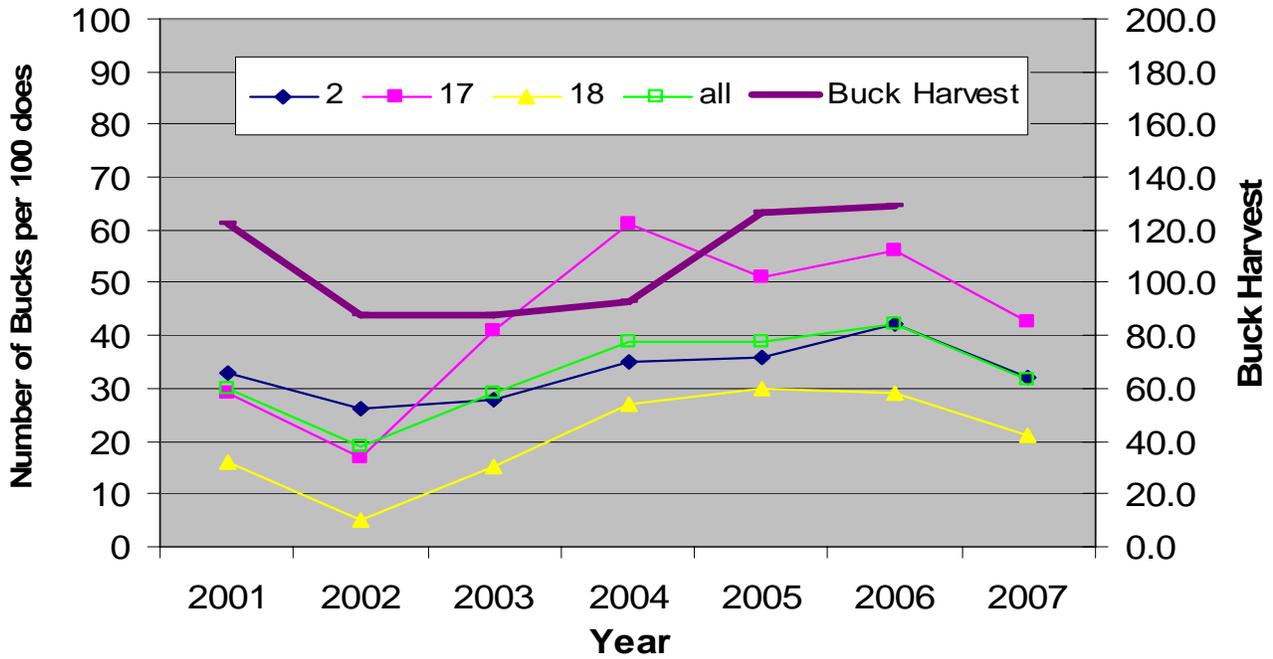


Figure 4. Number of pronghorn bucks per 100 does for each unit since 2001, and total annual buck harvest

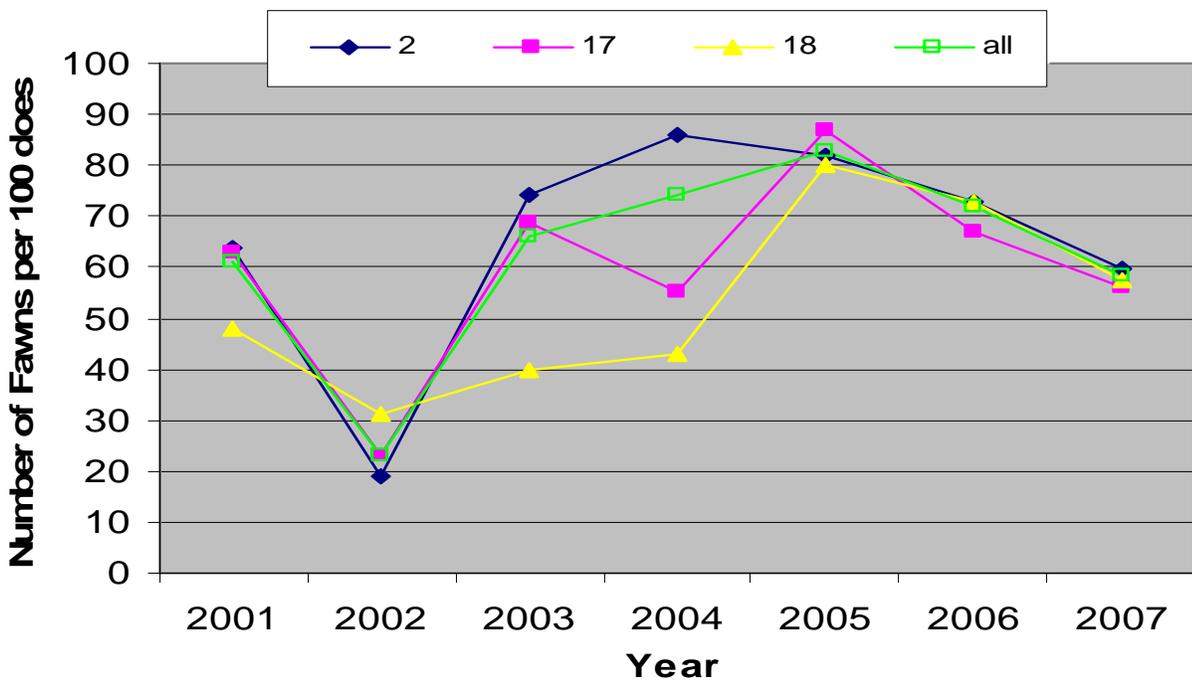


Figure 5. Number of pronghorn fawns per 100 does for each unit since 2001.