

Pronghorn file

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To: Chief, Office of Endangered Species, Region 2
From: Ronald M. Nowak, Staff Zoologist, Office of the Scientific Authority, USFWS, Washington, D.C. 20240
Subject: Sonoran Pronghorn

This report has been prepared at the request of Steve Chambers, and pertains to a brief study of specimens that I made some months ago. The specimens were sent from your region to the U.S. National Museum of Natural History. They are one adult male pronghorn from Organ Pipe Cactus National Monument, and two adult females from Cabeza Prieta Refuge. I examined skulls only. The objective was to see if the three specimens could be assigned to the subspecies sonoriensis.

Compared to the two new females, the type specimen of sonoriensis (also a female) is smaller and differs in most other characters used to distinguish the subspecies. The two new females are much more like specimens of the subspecies mexicana than they are like sonoriensis.

The new male specimen does not seem to differ from mexicana in any of the characters that were used to describe the subspecies.

In summary, the three specimens can not be assigned to the subspecies sonoriensis, and appear more likely to represent mexicana. If I could be of further assistance, please let me know.

Ronald M. Nowak

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