

AMENDMENTS TO APPENDICES I AND II OF THE CONVENTION

Ten Year Review Proposals

A. PROPOSAL

Inclusion of the Mexican population of Antilocapra americana in Appendix I instead of Antilocapra americana mexicanus, A. a. peninsularis and A. a. sonoriensis.

Deletion of the populations of the United States of America of Antilocapra americana mexicana from Appendix II and of A. a. sonoriensis from Appendix I.

B. PROPONENT

The United States of America.

C. SUPPORTING STATEMENT

1. Taxonomy

11. Class: Mammalia
12. Order: Artiodactyla
13. Family: Antilocapridae
14. Species: Antilocapra americana (Ord, 1815)
A. a. mexicana (Merriam, 1901)
A. a. peninsularis
A. a. sonoriensis (Goldman, 1945)

The following subspecies are not in the appendices:

A. a. americana
A. a. oregona

15. Common Names: English: Pronghorn
Mexican pronghorn
Sonoran pronghorn
- French:
Spanish:

16. Code Numbers: 1419008001001001 (ISIS)

2. Biological Data

21. Distribution: Formerly the species had a wide distribution in the deserts and grasslands of southwestern Canada, the western United States, and northern Mexico, including Baja California. The lines of demarcation between the ranges of A. a. americana and those of A. a. mexicana and A. a. oregona are uncertain. In western Texas, A. a. mexicana commonly intergrades with A. a. americana. All herds of mexicana that occur in the grasslands of southern Arizona have received transplants of americana from northern Arizona. Indiscriminate transplants of americana have also

been made into the ranges of the other subspecies. The Baja pronghorn (A. a. peninsularis) is limited to the Baja Peninsula, and the Sonoran pronghorn (A. a. sonoriensis) to northern Mexico (Sonora) and southern Arizona.

22. Population: Some 35 million pronghorns inhabited North America before the arrival of the white man, but by 1924, this population had decreased to less than 20,000 animals. From 1924 to 1964, the population multiplied tenfold. Today, there are over a half million animals (O'Gara, 1978), almost all in the United States. According to Mexican authorities, all of the pronghorn populations (mexicana, peninsularis and sonoriensis) in Mexico total fewer than 800 animals.
23. Habitat: Pronghorns occupy a number of habitats, including grasslands, prairies, bushland (sagebrush); and desert.

3. Trade Data

31. National Utilization: None.
32. Legal International Trade: A few sport-hunted trophies.
33. Illegal Trade: A few animals are probably poached locally.
34. Potential Trade Threats: None. Effective law enforcement, habitat improvement, and wildlife management techniques have aided population increases.

4. Protection Status

41. National: The pronghorn is protected under State game laws throughout its range in the United States. The peninsular or Baja and Sonoran pronghorn are listed as endangered under the US Endangered Species Act of 1973.

The pronghorns in Mexico are protected under Mexican law.

42. International: The Mexican pronghorn is listed in Appendix II, and the peninsular and Sonoran pronghorns in Appendix I of CITES.

5. Information on Similar Species

A vast majority of the present day pronghorns belong to the subspecies A. a. americana, with three somewhat isolated fingerlike southern extensions carrying the general range of the pronghorn into Mexico. These peripheral extensions represent geographic races differing from the typical form and from one another only in comparatively slight details of size, colour and structure. It is difficult for Customs officials to distinguish between the unlisted and protected subspecies. Therefore, a geographic listing would aid enforcement activities.

6. Comments from Countries of Origin

Mexico wishes to retain its three subspecies of pronghorns (mexicana, peninsularis and sonoriensis) in the appendices.

7. Additional Remarks

Whether all five subspecies of pronghorns are valid is a moot question further complicated by indiscriminant transplants of A. a. americana into the ranges of the other recognized subspecies. Also, there is no documented commercial trade in these subspecies since their original listings. The US populations will be removed from the appendices, whereas the Mexican populations will be retained in Appendix I and combined under the specific name of Antilocapra americana.

8. References

O'Gara, B., 1978. Antilocapra americana. Mammalian Species. No. 90, pp 1-7
The American Society of Mammalogists.