

PREFILED DIRECT TESTIMONY OF LEON GANUELAS

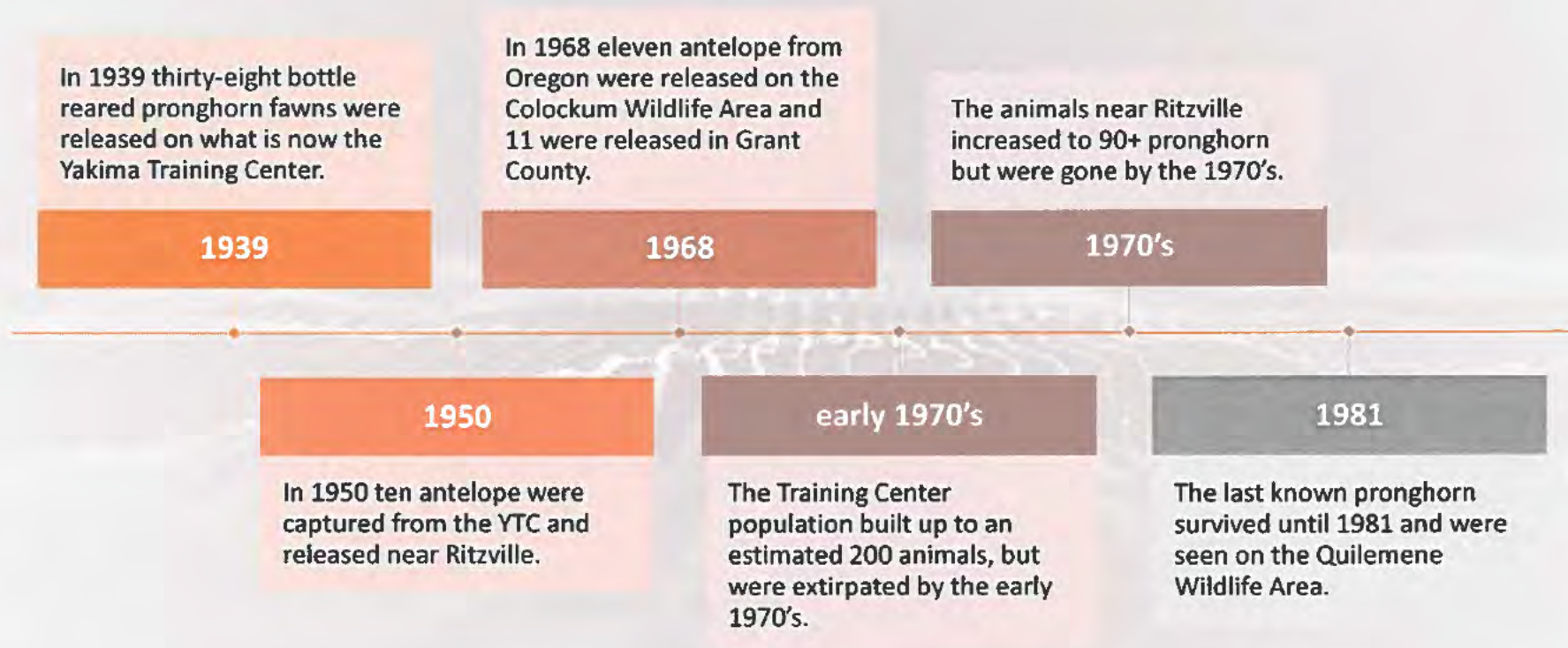
EXHIBIT A

CONFIDENTIAL AND PROTECTED FROM DISCLOSURE

Pronghorn Reintroduction and Management in Southeast Washington: Pronghorn Landscape Use and Population Dynamics

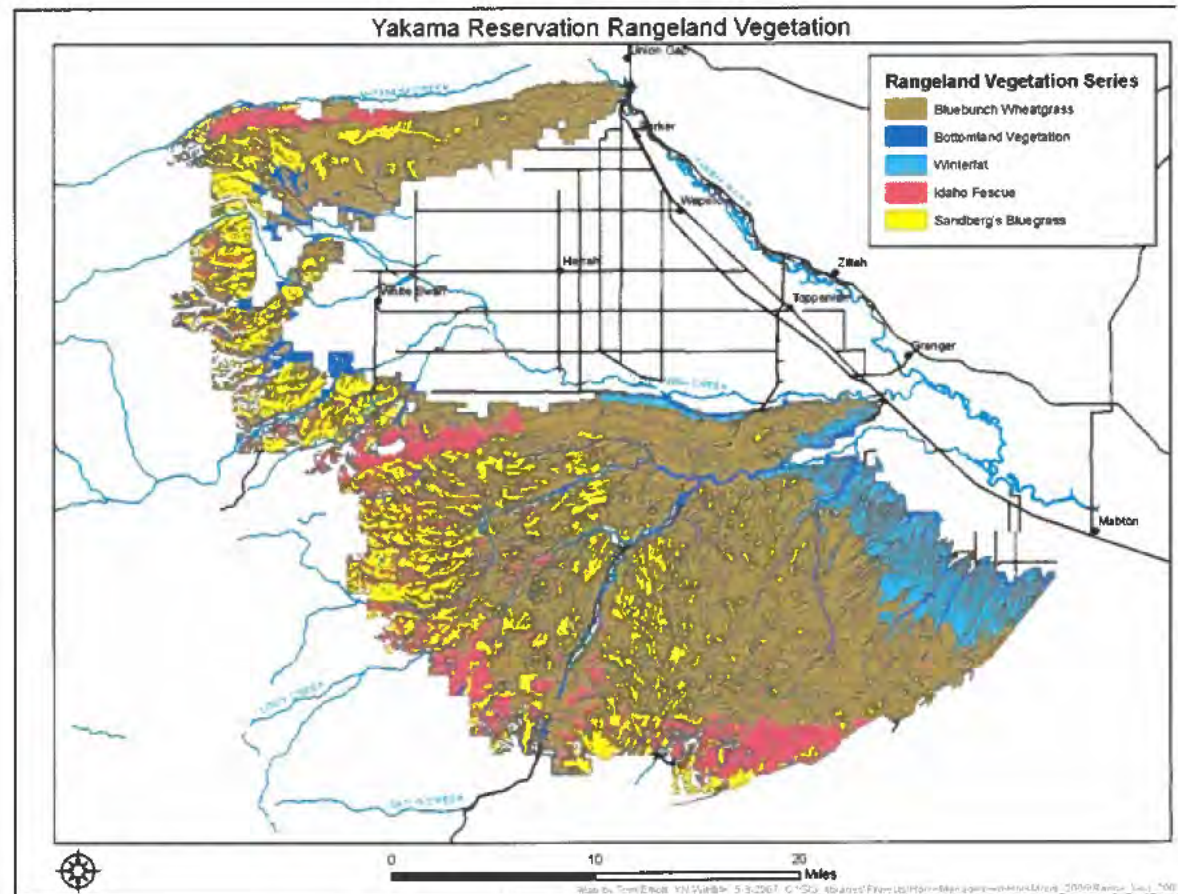
Yakama Nation Wildlife Resource Management Program

Pronghorn in Washington – Previous Efforts



Background

- A comprehensive habitat analysis funded by the US Fish and Wildlife Service was conducted in 2005.
- This analysis demonstrated that there was suitable habitat throughout the rangelands of the reservation with the most suitable habitat being within the East Satus Area.



Background

- Jan 2011 – Ninety-nine pronghorn translocated from Central Nevada to the Yakama Reservation (25 adult females fitted with VHF collars)
- 2011-13 – Monitoring via VHF telemetry until collars ceased to function
- Oct 2017 – YN translocates an additional 52 pronghorn from Elko County, NV
- Jan 2019 – YN translocates an additional 49 pronghorn from Nevada
- Release groups from 2017 and 2019 fitted with GPS Collars for monitoring

Translocation

Goal: Translocate 100 pronghorn from
Central Nevada to YN Reservation

Result: 99 pronghorn captured in 2011
52 in Oct 2017
49 in Jan 2019



Capture and Release Demographics

2011 – initial release

7 adult males

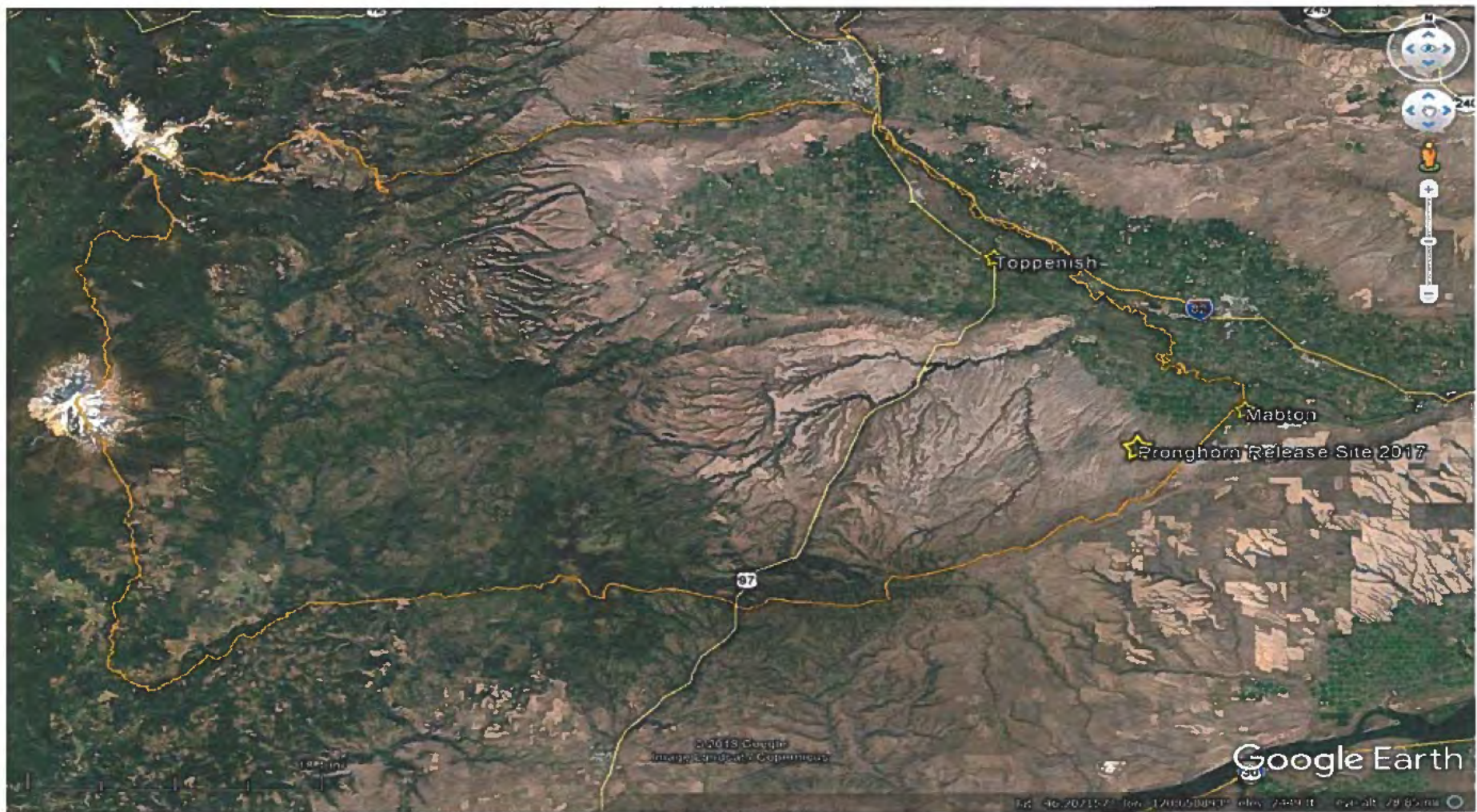
62 adult females

21 female fawns

5 male fawns

4 mortalities

- 2017
- 30 Adult females
- 6 Juvenile males
- 16 Juvenile females
- 2019
- 37 Adult females
- 10 juvenile females
- 2 juvenile males



Dispersal of Collar 28111

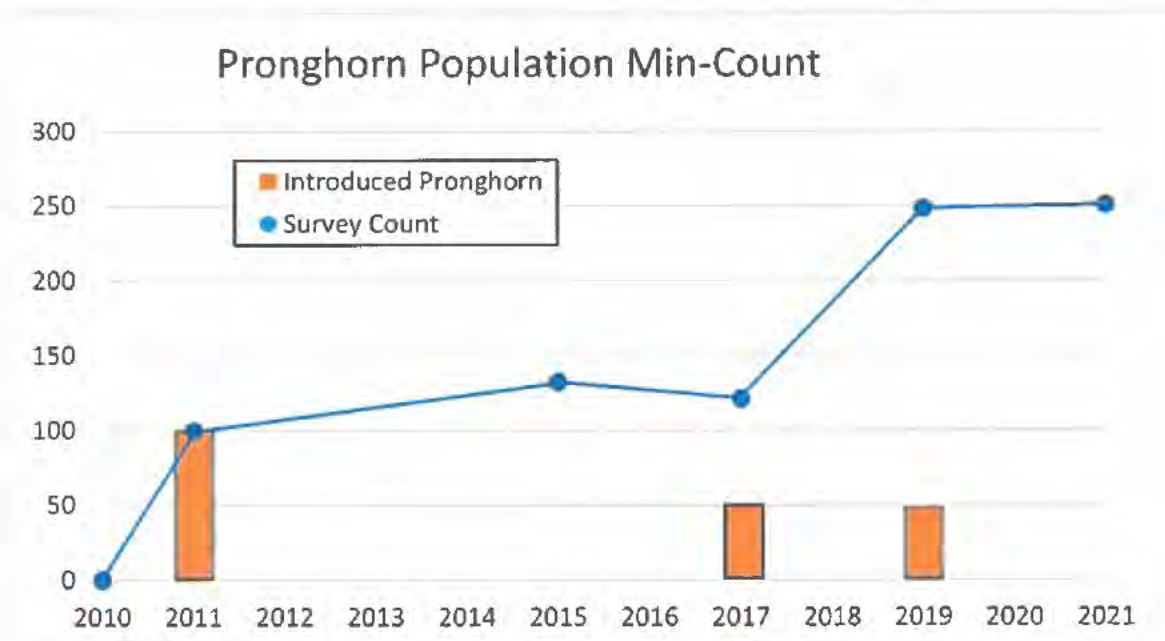
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Population Surveys

- Feb 2015 – Joint WDFW/YN population survey counted 106 pronghorn from the air (additional 26 from the ground)
- Mar 2017 – Second WDFW/YN survey counts 116 from the air (additional 5 from the ground)
- Feb 2019 – Third WDFW/YN population survey counted 225 pronghorn from the air (additional 23 from the ground)
- March 2021 – Fourth WDFW/YN population survey counted 216 pronghorn from the air (additional 34 from the ground)
- *Surveys are minimum population counts*

Population Surveys

- 2011 – 99
- 2015 – 132
- 2017 – 121
- 2019 – 248
- 2021 – 250



Reproduction

- First fawns observed in late May
- In July 2017, 15 of 21 collared females that were observed still had fawns.
- 71% reproduction rate
- Minimum recruitment rate of 30% to 40%
- Need to determine reproduction rates and recruitment for overall population



Mortality

- Capture Related
 - mortality in the trailer
 - Transport related
 - 2 adult females within two weeks of release - 2017
- 2019 release group – winter mortality
- Subsequent mortalities
 - Unknown causes
 - Car collision
 - Predation
 - Poaching
- 2021 Status

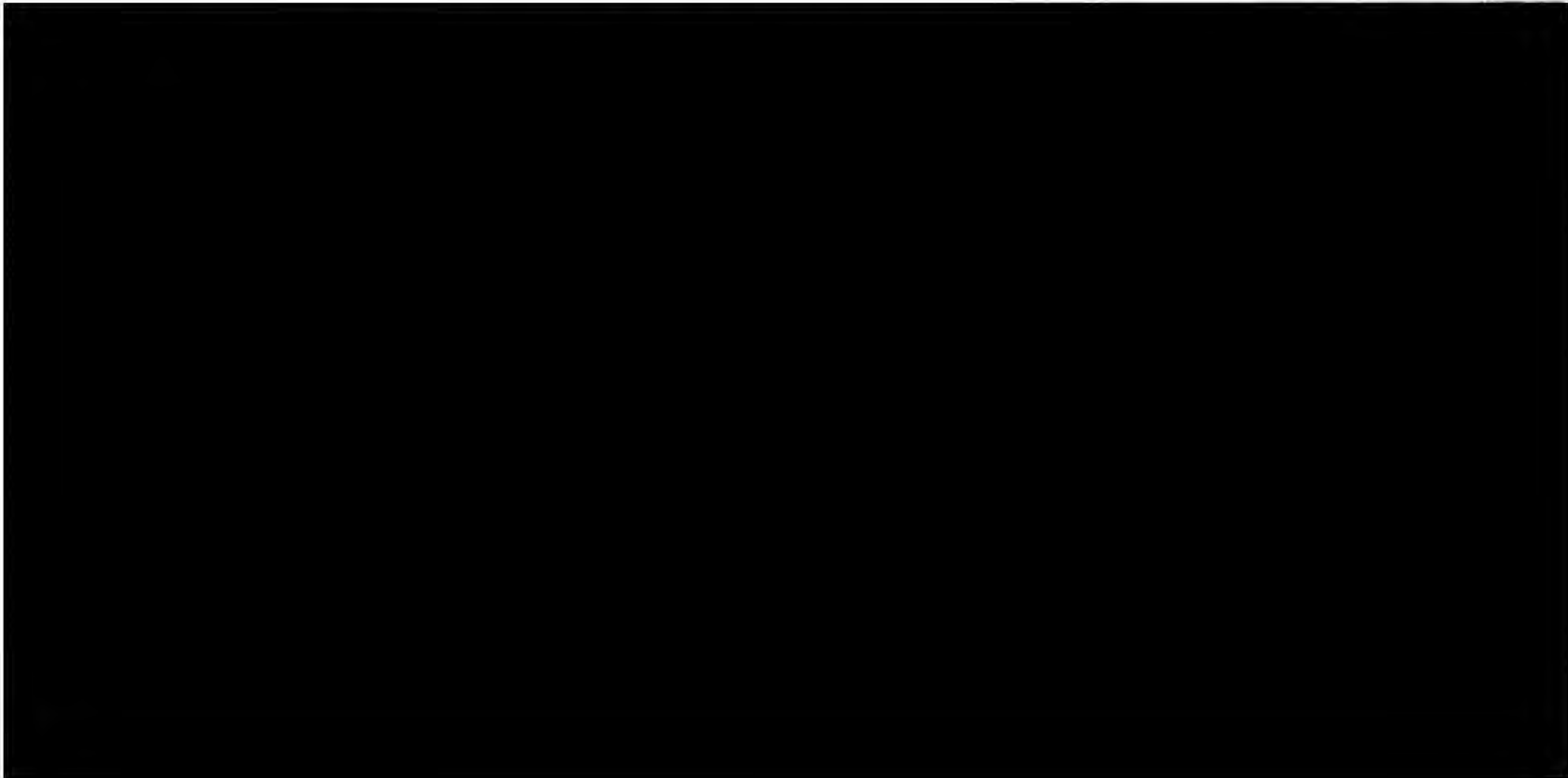
Pronghorn Landscape Use

- Pronghorns evolved in open landscapes and normally avoid tall vegetation such as orchards or corn fields.
- Normally feed while traveling and leave little impact on the land.
- Small patches of grain or alfalfa may experience damage.
- Deterrents
 - Four Strand Fencing
 - Canyons
 - Irrigated Agriculture
 - Roadways

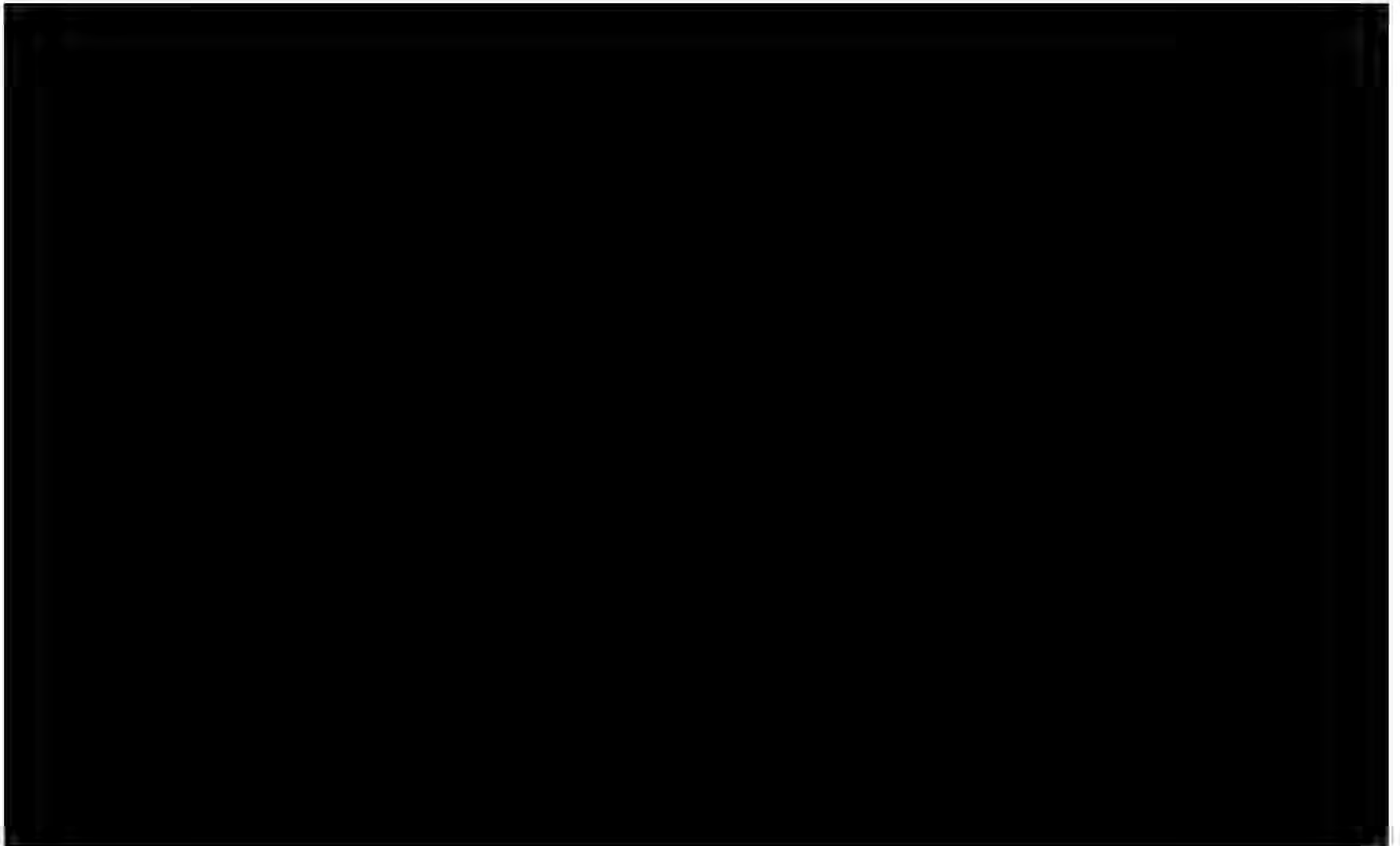
Pronghorn Habitat Utilization - 2017



Pronghorn Habitat Utilization – Current 2021



15

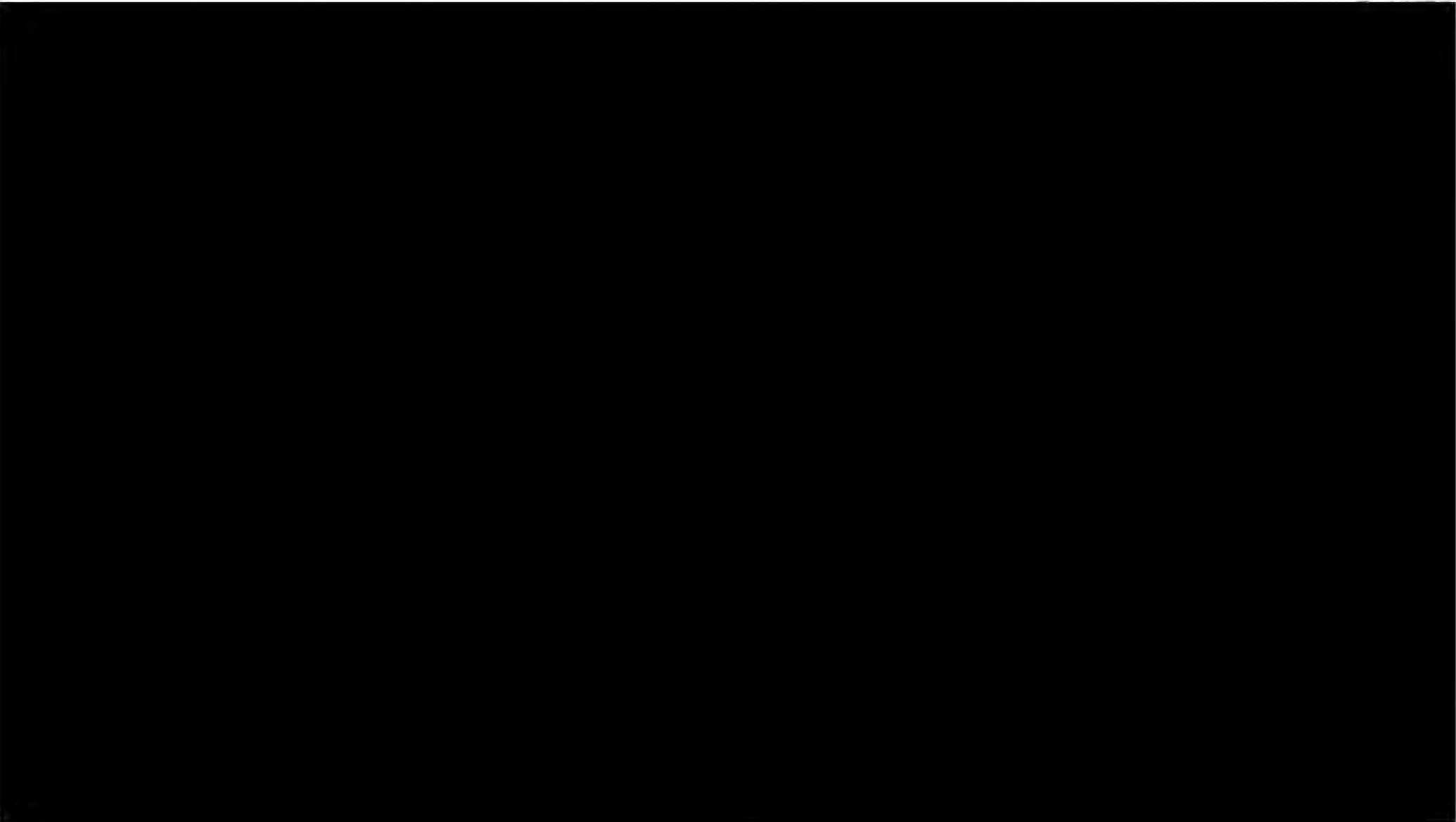


Travel corridors and Impacts

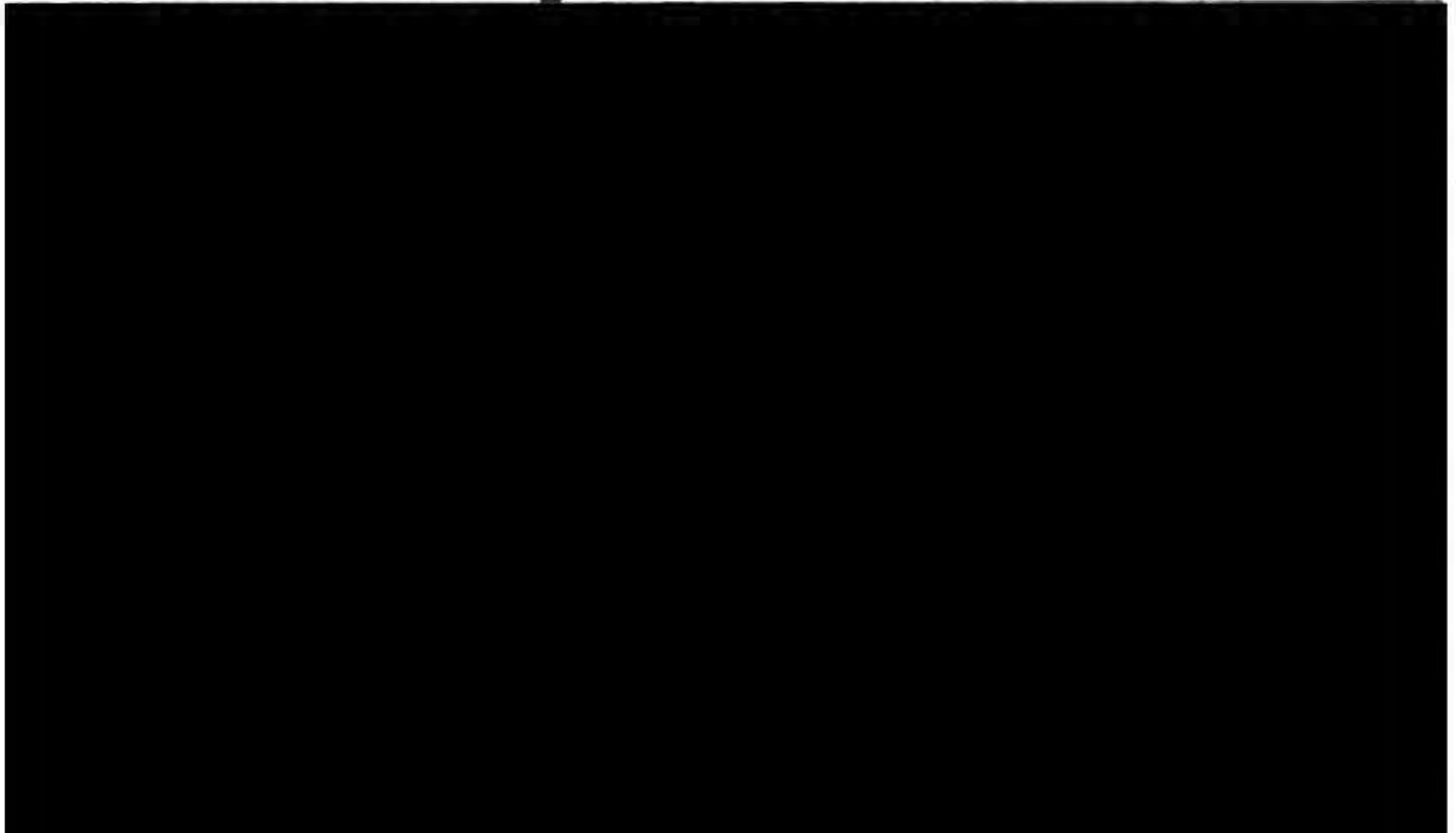
- Fencing
- Topography
 - Elevation and slope
- Large canyons as movement barriers
 - Movement between Core Habitat Areas limited by canyons
 - Smaller draws and canyons are less of a barrier.
- Roadways – Highway 97 & Highway 82
 - Lesser impacts by other roadways



Canyons as Barriers to Movement



Individual Pronghorn Collar Data 2017-2019





Further Investigations

Diet Distribution

Reproductive success

Buck to Doe Ratios

Fringe Groups

Overwintering Groups

Travel Corridors

Energy Development

Future Management

Corridor
Improvements

Animal Friendly
Fencing

Core Habitat Area
Improvements

Population Dynamics