

ANDERSON MESA PRONGHORN STUDY

Anderson Mesa lies just Southeast of Flagstaff, Arizona. In 1970, control of predators by toxicant was discontinued in the state. The Pronghorn herd, (including fawns) peaked at 481 animals in the summer of 1971 and then began to decline. 1973 counts indicated only 14 fawn per 100 does.

Coyote predation was found to be the primary factor. p.1 Recognizing that something must be done to curb Pronghorn fawn loss, limited control work (trapping and shooting), was contracted to the Animal Damage Control Division, U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service from 1974 to 1978. p.2 But trapping and shooting proved inadequate in curbing continuing losses.

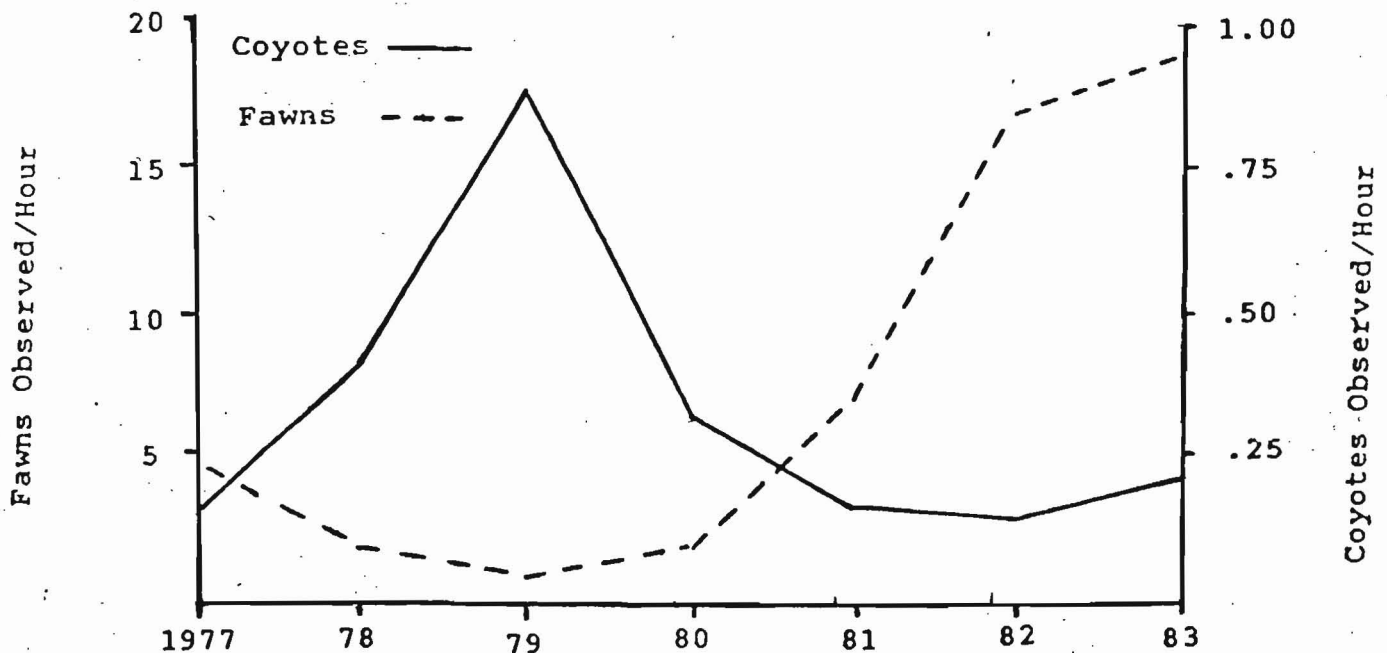
The 1979 pronghorn census indicated only 7 fawn for every 100 does. In 1980 the Arizona State Legislative amended the laws to allow coyote hunting from aircraft. From 1981 through 1983 the Animal Damage Control used helicopter gunning as their primary control method. p.2.

The 1983 aerial count for Anderson Mesa and adjacent winter range in July 1983 totalled 1,008, exceeding 1000 for the first time since 1960. p.9

Costs for 5 years of coyote control work (1979 - 1983) were \$66,400 for the removal of 265 coyotes. p.3

The above information was taken from: Pronghorn Antelope Mortality Study, Research Branch, Arizona Game and Fish Department Project W-78-R Feb. 1985.

Cost of coyote Removal by ADC was \$250 per coyote. Not at all cost effective as compared to a \$100 per head bounty system. (Author's comment)



Population trends pronghorn antelope fawns and coyotes at Pine Hill study area, Anderson Mesa from 1977 to 1983.