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"Books say: She did this because. Life says: She did this. Books are where things are explained to you; life is where things aren't. I'm not surprised some people prefer books."

— Julian Barnes

NASA's Roman Telescope Will Spot Distant Black Holes That Shred Stars

Lee esta nota de prensa en español aquí . How do black holes at the center of galaxies form and grow over time? To answer this question, scientists need to detect and study supermassive black holes at great distances, which existed much earlier in the universe's history. New research suggests NASA's Nancy Grace Roman Space Telescope, which is on track to launch Aug. 30, 2026, will be able to detect these distant, ancient black holes that existed up to 11 billion years ago. This artist's concept portrays a Sun-like star being shredded by a supermassive black hole — a phenomenon known as a tidal disruption event. During these events, the region around a black hole can brighten and become visible across great distances. NASA's Nancy Grace Roman Space Telescope will be able to spot and study tidal disruption events that occurred early in the universe's history. By characterizing an earlier population of supermassive black holes, astronomers can learn about their origins. NASA, Ralf Crawford (STScI) Black holes are best studied by looking for the light emitted from their accretion disk — the matter that swirls around them before being consumed. Lighter supermassive black holes are challenging to observe because they tend to be less luminous due to less accretion. But occasionally, they shred and consume an entire star, brightening to outshine their entire host galaxy — known as a tidal disruption event (TDE). By charac-

terizing that population of early supermassive black holes and how they evolve and grow for billions of years, Roman will provide clues to the ultimate origin of these behemoths. “The Roman Space Telescope is going to be transformative for transient science,” said lead author Mitchell Karmen of the Johns Hopkins University, a graduate student and National Science Foundation Graduate Research Fellow. “Thanks to Roman’s high sensitivity, we can find multiple tidal disruption events out to greater distances and earlier cosmic times than ever before.” A paper about this research published Tuesday in *The Astrophysical Journal*. Shredding Stars Roman’s High-Latitude Time-Domain Survey, one of three core community surveys, is particularly well suited to find and study TDEs in the early universe. This survey will cover about 18 square degrees on the sky, an area equivalent to 90 full moons, at a regular cadence. By revisiting the same regions repeatedly, astronomers can find large numbers of transient events like TDEs. Tidal disruption events are phenomena unique to lighter supermassive black holes. Heftier black holes weighing more than 1 billion Suns will swallow incoming stars whole. But lighter black holes of about 100,000 to 100 million Suns can shred a star before consuming it, creating a beacon that brightens over a couple of weeks before gradually fading away. The rate of TDEs fluctuates over cosmic time. Previous work predicted that the rate of TDEs would decrease with increasing distance because most young black holes were too light to generate a TDE. However, this new research takes into account numerous factors that evolve over time, like the frequency of galaxy (and hence black hole)

mergers as well as the number of stars within the core of each galaxy and how closely packed they are. Karmen and his colleagues modeled these and other effects to predict how many tidal disruption events Roman could observe, as well as other observatories like the ground-based National Science Foundation-Department of Energy Vera C. Rubin Observatory and NASA's James Webb Space Telescope . The team forecasts that astronomers will see the rate of TDEs increase as Roman probes greater distances and earlier times until “ cosmic noon ,” about 11 to 12 billion years ago when star formation peaked throughout the universe, before decreasing again. To view this video please enable JavaScript, and consider upgrading to a web browser that supports HTML5 video This visualization shows the average number of tidal disruption events NASA's Nancy Grace Roman Space Telescope is predicted to detect in a year, based on simulations. Roman is expected to record about 100 such events in a year. Video: NASA, STScI. Visualization: Christian Nieves (STScI). Sound: Christian Nieves (STScI). Designer: Dani Player (STScI). Animation: Greg Bacon (STScI) Complementary Observations Roman will observe near-infrared wavelengths of light. Light from distant TDEs becomes stretched to longer wavelengths by the expansion of the universe, a phenomenon known as cosmological redshift . As a result, Roman is inherently optimized to detect TDEs whose light traveled anywhere from 8 billion to 11 billion years to reach us. The Rubin Observatory also will scan large swaths of the sky and pick up many new TDEs. However, it will observe visible light, which limits it to closer TDEs than Roman. The

research by Karmen's team finds that Rubin will detect thousands to tens of thousands of TDEs per year. While Roman is expected to find up to 100 TDEs per year, those black holes will be much more distant, within the realm of cosmic history that is most important for distinguishing among black hole origin scenarios. "Just by counting the number of TDEs as a function of redshift, you can put meaningful constraints on the population of million-solar-mass black holes," said co-author Suvi Gezari, an associate professor of astronomy at the University of Maryland. "Roman will be transformative in that it can probe tidal disruption events out to greater distances, so you can look at how the rate of TDEs evolves over time." Origins of supermassive black holes Astronomers have observed truly gargantuan black holes very early in the history of the universe — so early that theories struggle to explain how they could have become so large, so quickly. They must have started smaller and grown over time, but how much smaller? One theory, known as "light seeds," begins with black holes that are created from the deaths of massive stars. Such black holes might weigh up to a few hundred times our Sun. These black holes then would merge over time, as well as consume surrounding gas at an astonishing rate. In this scenario, every young galaxy would be expected to have a massive black hole at its center. A second theory, known as "heavy seeds," suggests that a black hole could be born with a much higher mass, up to a million times our Sun, through a process such as the direct collapse of a gas cloud. This process should be less common, though, which would result in supermassive black holes being much rarer in early galaxies.

“Tidal disruption events help us probe the population of light super-massive black holes, which can help us discriminate between these models,” Karmen said. Ultimately, Roman’s tally of tidal disruption events will help researchers trace global effects that impact the black hole population over time. Once Roman and Rubin begin regular science operations, the team looks forward to comparing their forecasts to the actual detections those observatories make. “Just like Webb has transformed our understanding of distant, high-redshift galaxies, Roman is poised to transform our understanding of high-redshift transients,” Gezari said. The Nancy Grace Roman Space Telescope is managed at NASA’s Goddard Space Flight Center in Greenbelt, Maryland, with participation by NASA’s Jet Propulsion Laboratory in Southern California; Caltech/IPAC in Pasadena, California; the Space Telescope Science Institute in Baltimore; and a science team comprising scientists from various research institutions. The primary industrial partners are BAE Systems, Inc. in Boulder, Colorado; L3Harris Technologies in Melbourne, Florida; and Teledyne Scientific & Imaging in Thousand Oaks, California. By Christine Pulliam Space Telescope Science Institute, Baltimore, Md. Media Contact: Claire Andreoli NASA’s Goddard Space Flight Center , Greenbelt, Md. 301-286-1940 Share Details Last Updated Jul 14, 2026 Editor Ashley Balzer Contact Ashley Balzer ashley.m.balzer@nasa.gov Location Goddard Space Flight Center Related Terms Nancy Grace Roman Space Telescope Astrophysics Black Holes Galaxies, Stars, & Black Holes Galaxies, Stars, & Black Holes Research Goddard Space Flight Center

Science & Research Stars The Universe Explore More 7 min read One Survey by NASA's Roman Could Unveil 100,000 Cosmic Explosions Article 12 months ago 6 min read NASA Roman Core Survey Will Trace Cosmic Expansion Over Time Article 11 months ago 6 min read Team Preps to Study Dark Energy via Exploding Stars With NASA's Roman Article 1 year ago

Celebrating Habitat Month

July is Habitat Month at NOAA Fisheries! All month long, we'll be sharing how we conserve and restore habitat to sustain our nation's fisheries and support coastal communities. NOAA conserves habitats like wetlands , rivers , and coral reefs to support fisheries—but habitat isn't valuable just for the home it provides for fish and wildlife. Healthy habitats help keep our drinking water clean, protect us from storms and flooding, and support industries like boating and fishing. From jobs to seafood to tourism, coastal habitats are vital to America's national and local economies. Follow us here and on X (formerly Twitter) at @NOAA-Habitat . You can also stay up-to-date on our latest habitat conservation stories all year long by subscribing to HabitatNews .

Habitat Features

Saving a Chesapeake Bay Watershed Marsh for Fish, Wildlife, and People

A NOAA-funded project on Virginia's Ragged Island is restoring habitat for fish, oysters, and birds. The project will also prevent hundreds of tons of sediment and pollution from entering the Chesapeake Bay. [More about work to save a Chesapeake Bay watershed marsh](#)

A Restored Reef Brings Fish Habitat Back to Southern California

In 2020, as part of an effort to restore an area impacted by historical chemical pollution, divers and scientists lowered more than 70,000 tons of rock onto the ocean floor in carefully engineered mounds. Their goal: restore the rocky reef habitat that fish, kelp, and countless marine creatures need to survive, in an area long-

contaminated with DDT and other toxins, and buried by sediment. Today, that effort is paying off in ways that even the scientists didn't fully expect. Learn about the results of the Palos Verdes Reef restoration project NOAA-Funded Research Highlights Economic Effects of Oyster Reef Restoration Scientists at Morgan State University forecast that restored oyster reefs—especially when paired with eelgrass recovery—boost habitat, blue crab harvest, and the economy. Oyster reefs provide habitat and food for commercially important species, including blue crabs. More healthy reef habitat means more blue crabs are available for harvest and for your dinner table. That provides financial benefits to watermen and supporting industries along the way. Learn more about how restored oyster reefs help support local economies Coral Reefs Fuel Florida's Economy—Restoration Ensures Their Future NOAA and its partners are restoring Florida's coral reefs to protect marine life, boost the local economy, and support tourism jobs. We also give divers and businesses a hands-on role in saving these vital ecosystems. Read how coral restoration helps support local jobs tied to tourism, fishing, and recreation Restoration of Florida's Robinson Preserve Benefits Fish, Visitors, and Local Economy Investments in the restoration of Florida's Robinson Preserve are paying off for fish, visitors, and the local economy, according to a recent economic study and fisheries monitoring results. The 700-acre coastal preserve—once degraded farmland—now supports a healthy sportfish population, attracts about 240,000 visitors each year, and generates millions of dollars in economic activity. Read about the NOAA-supported restoration at

Robinson Preserve Habitat Restoration Helps Put Anglers Back on the Pier, Hikers Back on the Trail When environmental disasters like oil or chemical spills disrupt waterfront access, NOAA restores habitat to reconnect communities to the outdoors. Through our Damage Assessment, Remediation, and Restoration Program, we work to quantify recreational losses and determine the economic and social value of the lost use of the resource. Then, we use settlement funds to restore the injured habitats and fund restoration projects. Learn more about how NOAA works to restore recreational access [Updates from Partners on Engaging the Recreational Fishing Community to Restore Habitat through the National Fish Habitat Partnership](#) Through the National Fish Habitat Partnership, NOAA Fisheries supports projects that restore habitat in collaboration with recreational anglers. Partners are reporting progress on several ongoing projects that actively engage local communities and recreational anglers to conserve fish habitat. Learn more about the ongoing projects with partners in [Maryland](#), [Alaska](#), and [Hawai'i](#) [Restoring Habitat, Bolstering the Economy, and Supporting Jobs in Florida Coastal restoration](#) might bring to mind images of wetlands, sand dunes, and tidal marshes—but there's another impact of this work: jobs and economic growth. An economic analysis shows that community-led restoration contributes broadly to local, state, and national economies. It finds that \$72.5 million invested across 12 habitat restoration projects in Florida is estimated to support jobs and wages and increase both spending and economic activity. Learn more about the results of this economic analysis [Interactive Tool Gives](#)

Virginia Communities Data on Economic Effects of Marshes and Living Shorelines Chesapeake Bay marshes and living shorelines play important roles in the ecosystem and benefit nearby communities. NOAA and partners, including the Virginia Institute of Marine Science, work to restore these important places. VIMS researchers developed a tool that individual land owners, communities, and resource managers can use to help them make decisions about marsh and living shoreline projects in Virginia's Middle Peninsula. Learn how the tool calculates the benefits of marsh restoration projects Oyster Restoration Investments Net Positive Returns for Economy and Environment A report by the North Carolina Coastal Federation shows that NOAA and partners' investments in oyster restoration produce almost double the amount in economic and environmental benefits. The economic report found that for every \$1 spent on oyster reef restoration, the state sees \$1.70 in return. Learn how oyster restoration projects support jobs and local economies Habitat 101 Shallow Coral Reef Habitat Coral reefs are the most diverse habitats on the planet. Reefs occur in less than 1 percent of the ocean, yet are home to nearly one-quarter of all ocean species. They also provide jobs, tourism and recreation opportunities, seafood, wave protection, and more. Learn more about shallow coral reefs Deep-Sea Coral Habitat You might think of corals and picture a sunny and shallow tropical reef. Yet recent advances in deep ocean exploration have revealed spectacular coral gardens in the dark ocean depths, beyond the reach of sunlight. These unique corals and sponges thrive in the largest yet least known environment on Earth: the

deep sea. Learn more about deep-sea coral habitat

Estuary Habitat Estuaries are bodies of water where rivers meet the sea. They provide homes for diverse wildlife, including popular fish species. They also support recreation, jobs, tourism, shipping, and more. Learn more about estuaries

Coastal Wetland Habitat Wetlands are a pivotal part of the natural system, providing tremendous benefits for coastal ecosystems and communities. They provide us with clean water, flood protection, abundant fisheries, and more. Learn more about coastal wetlands

Oyster Reef Habitat Oysters are a crucial component of global ocean health. These animals filter and clean the surrounding water and provide habitat, food, and jobs. Today, however, oyster populations are at historic lows. NOAA works with partners to restore oysters and regain the critical ecosystem functions they provide. Learn about the importance of oyster reef habitat

Watching nature videos can help reduce stress

Research finds that watching nature videos can reduce stress and improve emotional recovery, even without direct exposure to the outdoors. When stressed, it's important to find healthy ways to cope. Getting outdoors is a proven way to do so. But not everyone has easy access to nature. That's where nature videos might help, according to a North Carolina State University professor. "Research shows that exposure to nature is beneficial, even if that exposure only occurs through a screen. Not everyone has access to natural views from their office, work, bedroom, or home, but there are plenty of online videos of natural spaces that can set one at ease," says Aaron Hipp, a professor of community health and sustainability in the parks, recreation, and tourism management department. Hipp, who also serves as director of NC State's Nature and Health Collaborative, coauthored a study examining the stress-reducing effects of nature-based imagery, specifically videos of forests and streams. The study found that watching nature videos, including those readily available on YouTube, can help people recover from stress more effectively than watching videos of urban environments, adding to growing evidence that nature-based imagery can positively influence mood. Hipp and collaborators conducted the international, multi-site study to replicate similar findings from a 1991 study led by environmental psychologist Roger Ulrich and researchers at Texas A&M University and the University of

Delaware. In their study, Ulrich and his collaborators demonstrated that viewing nature videos significantly promotes stress recovery, as evidenced by positive changes in mood and anxiety levels and physiological effects such as lower heart rate, muscle tension, and blood pressure. The study remains widely cited by researchers and has paved the way for the global adoption of nature-based imagery in hospitals, schools, offices, and other built environments to promote relaxation and reduce stress. However, because it has been 35 years since the original study was published, Hipp says it was important to replicate and validate its findings using contemporary research methods, given the continued widespread use of nature-based imagery in research and practice, the emergence of new forms of video media, and broader changes in society and technology. Hipp and researchers at laboratories across Europe and the United States recruited nearly 1,000 volunteers to watch a stress-inducing video followed by videos of natural and urban environments, allowing the team to compare their emotional and physiological responses. The researchers had participants begin by watching a 10-minute compilation video of workplace accidents in industrial settings, including incidents involving slips and falls and workers being struck by heavy objects, to raise their stress levels. Next, the researchers randomly assigned participants to watch one of six 10-minute environmental videos: two showing natural settings—a forest and a stream—and four showing urban environments, including pedestrian areas and traffic scenes. Throughout the study, Hipp and researchers tracked how participants' emotional states changed using a

questionnaire administered before the stress-inducing video, after the stress video, and after the environmental video. The questionnaire measured feelings such as fear, anger, positive emotions, sadness, and attentiveness. Hipp and researchers also used sensors to record participants' bodily responses such as heart activity and sweating and then compared these measures with the questionnaire results to assess which environments best supported stress recovery. The stressful video reliably triggered both psychological and physiological stress responses. Participants reported feeling more fear, anger, and sadness, along with lower positive mood and reduced attentiveness. They also experienced more sweating, changes in heart activity and lower heart rate variability, confirming that they were experiencing stress. After viewing the environmental videos, participants felt more positive emotion and less anger compared with those who viewed urban environments. Physiological stress responses generally improved over time for all participants no matter which environment they viewed, meaning their bodies started to calm down after the stressful video. "Our findings reinforce earlier research showing that viewing videos of natural environments can help people recover from acute stress, both physically and mentally," Hipp says. "Even without being physically present in nature, people experienced small but consistent improvements." Hipp notes that unlike the original study, the nature videos did not lead to faster physiological stress recovery. In other words, people felt calmer after watching nature scenes, but their physical stress responses did not improve more quickly. This

suggests that nature's stress-relieving effects may be stronger mentally, not physically, at least in the short term. Even so, some physical measures did show differences depending on the type of nature video. Participants who watched the forest scene seemed to calm down and relax faster than those who watched urban scenes, while those who watched the stream scene showed little to no difference—which may have been due to the loud, distracting sound of the water. Overall, Hipp says the study's findings suggest that even brief exposure to natural environments on a screen can help people recover from stress, offering a simple and accessible way to support mental well-being when getting outdoors isn't possible. Research shows that parks and green spaces provide both physical and mental health benefits, ranging from improved cardiovascular health to reduced stress. But not everyone has equal access to them, leaving many communities without nearby safe places to enjoy nature. According to The Trust for Public Land, more than 100 million people—including 28 million kids—don't have a park within a 10-minute walk of home. This gap in access limits opportunities for daily physical activity, relaxation and connection to nature, especially in urban communities. Hipp says nature videos can help bridge this gap, offering a practical way to deliver similar calming and restorative effects by bringing natural scenes into everyday environments when time outdoors or nearby green space isn't an option. Nature videos are widely accessible and easy to integrate into daily life. They can be streamed on platforms like YouTube or TikTok, played on televisions or computer screens or even displayed in waiting rooms, offices, and

classrooms. One example comes from Hipp himself, who uses them in his course PRT 261: Nature, Health, and Wellness. At the end of each class, he shows a two-minute nature video to help students recover from the attentional demands of a 90-minute lecture. “For health care, schools, and universities, incorporating videos—or even virtual reality—into rooms can provide moments of respite,” Hipp says. “That could be during dental care, during testing, or following an exam.” Source: North Carolina State University The post Watching nature videos can help reduce stress appeared first on Futurity .

USDA delivers more than \$52 million to support rural communities across America

The U.S. Forest Service today announced it is distributing over \$52 million to support local emergency services, schools and roads. In total, 65 counties will benefit from these funds under the Bankhead-Jones Farm Tenant Act. “These funds represent 25 percent of the revenue generated from management of federally administered grasslands in these communities. The payments help ensure local communities share in the economic benefits from the land,” said Forest Service Chief Tom Schultz. “The funds are used to support local schools and infrastructure like roads, while reinforcing the value these lands provide to the American people.”

Funding breakdown: State Counties receiving payments Total payment

North Dakota	9	\$41,386,724	Colorado	4	\$6,747,437	Wyoming	5	\$2,488,079
Texas	5	\$521,249	Kansas	2	\$434,304	Oklahoma	1	\$342,172
All other states	39	\$104,283	Total	65	\$52,024,248			

A complete list of recipients is available at <https://www.fs.usda.gov/working-with-us/secure-rural-schools/bankhead-jones-payments> . Revenue was generated from receipts primarily consisting of mineral development collected by the Department of the Interior’s Office of Natural Resources Revenue and grazing revenues collected by the Forest Service during the 2025 calendar year. The Forest Service manages 20 national grasslands for multiple uses, including grazing, energy development and natural resource conservation.

To learn more about these payments to counties, visit: <https://www.fs.usda.gov/working-with-us/secure-rural-schools/bankhead-jones-payments> . About the Forest Service: The Forest Service has brought people and communities together to answer the call of conservation for more than 100 years. Grounded in world-class science and technology—and rooted in communities—the Forest Service connects people to nature and recreation opportunities. The agency manages 193 million acres of public land, supports the nation’s forest industry and energy needs, and operates the largest and most respected wildland fire and forestry research organizations in the world. By providing assistance to state and private landowners and working with Tribes and other partners, the Forest Service also helps steward an additional 900 million forested acres within the U.S..

Sonoran Pronghorn Recovery Takes a Village

Sonoran Pronghorn Recovery Takes a Village Military partners and others improve the odds for the endangered pronghorn Written By Image Sandra Gladish Within the circular enclosures found in the far southwest corner of Arizona, shuffling boots fill the winter air with dust. As soon as there is just enough daylight to see, when temperatures are at their coolest, the work begins. One goal unites a dedicated crew of nearly 30: safely, calmly, and quickly workup nearly 50 endangered Sonoran pronghorn before the day gets too warm. As the desert sun rises, they race to conserve this incredible species. For the past two decades, a multi-agency team has met annually to support the recovery of the species. A severe drought in 2002 nearly wiped out the U.S. population of Sonoran pronghorn, leaving 21 individuals remaining in Arizona at the time. In response, federal and state agencies secured six individuals from the Mexican government to prevent the endangered pronghorn's extirpation (local extinction), improve the gene pool, and establish a cooperative semi-captive breeding program in Arizona. "Semi-captive" means that the pronghorn are still wild, but live in a large, enclosed pen that excludes predators, and where natural breeding and behaviors occur. "It really does take a village to save a species," said Aleksa Mckay, wildlife biologist with Arizona Ecological Services in Tucson and the Sonoran pronghorn species lead. "All of these different organizations and partners have vested interests in recovering the

species. It's impressive how far we have come with the recovery efforts.” The endangered pronghorn’s range spans across multiple land agencies in southwestern Arizona, and the pronghorn can move freely between them. These places include Kofa and Cabeza Prieta National Wildlife Refuges, Organ Pipe Cactus National Monument, Bureau of Land Management lands, military lands, and tribal lands. The Endangered Species Act mandates that federal agencies take action to conserve species , and each of the partners play a role in contributing to recovery. Pronghorn Conservation on a Military Range Image Details As a result of successful captive breeding at the Cabeza Prieta National Wildlife Refuge facility, and subsequent releases into the wild, nearly half of the nation’s endangered Sonoran pronghorn are found at the Barry M. Goldwater Range in southwestern Arizona. Fighter jets, bombs and weapons don’t faze the pronghorn as they feed on desert plants such as cacti and thorny bushes. Long-term studies have shown that the animals become habituated to the noises from military training, often being observed to pause, lift their heads, and then return to eating. Vehicles and helicopters cause more disturbances than do bombs or bullets. “We are committed partners towards the recovery of this iconic species of the Sonoran Desert,” said Aaron Alvidrez, 56th Range Management Office wildlife biologist. “We have not documented any pronghorn mortality due to Air Force training missions. We balance military readiness with conservation.” The Department of War has been a committed partner when it comes to implementing the ESA’s conservation goals. Alvidrez has participated in the pronghorn

capture and release event for two decades as a member of the Sonoran Pronghorn Recovery Team, helping to refine the methods. The species is highly sensitive and becomes stressed when handled, so improving capture methods is critical to its recovery. This is Not a Rodeo Image Details Before the capture and release event, Arizona Game and Fish Department employees put high-value enticements like molasses pellets inside of the high-walled three-interconnected circular enclosures called bomas. The pronghorn become comfortable entering the bomas, and when enough are inside, personnel will remotely trigger a sliding door. On the day of the event, pronghorn are isolated three at a time into a designated boma. They are captured and restrained for their safety, worked up, and immediately released back into the breeding pen or sedated and transported to their new home at a release site. The workup of the animals includes assessing their health, administering vitamin and disease prevention inoculations, adding identifying ear tags, and, for those being released into the wild, adding radio collars for tracking once they are released. Ideally, all of this is done in less than three minutes. Although it may appear chaotic, each action taken by the team is purposeful and deliberate. The team works mostly in silence, whispering only when necessary to keep the animals calm. The capture event has become a well-oiled machine. The pronghorn are handled as quickly and efficiently as pit crews maintain racecars, and then the speeding animals are sent on their way. “They’re very skittish, cautious animals,” said Greta Schmidt, wildlife biologist at Cabeza Prieta National Wildlife Refuge and the Sonoran Pronghorn

Recovery Team coordinator. “Their behaviors are adaptations evolved from living alongside the American cheetah. Their whole way of surviving is to be really wary of things.” Work continues until all the pronghorn have been handled, only pausing if personnel observe a pronghorn in distress and restarting when the animal is calm again. After the workup, most of the pronghorn are returned to the pen. Some are transferred to other locations on federal lands, such as the Barry M. Goldwater Air Force Range. Here, they tend to frequent a permanent feeding and water development called Uken Tank which is named after Colonel Jim Uken, the retired director of the Range Management Office at Luke Air Force Base. Colonel Uken was an advocate for Sonoran pronghorn, and the feeding and watering tank bearing his name has proven to be critical in drought years, allowing for higher survival rates for fawns.

Capture and Release Day Video During the capture and release day, the safety of the pronghorn is priority. Each person knows their role and follows their training. They break up into several teams, and a person can be a member of more than one team. This behind-the-scenes video provides an overview of team names and roles and show a typical capture and release day.

Racing Towards Recovery Image Details As the sun rises higher in the sky, the winter air has warmed and the capture event comes to an end. Everyone is covered in dirt and sweat and is shaky from the high-adrenaline day. Although they are weary, the team feels energized knowing that they helped in the recovery of the species. The Sonoran Pronghorn Recovery Team has managed one of the most effective recov-

ery projects in recent history. Today, about 450 Sonoran pronghorn are found in Arizona, and another 500 live in Mexico. The semi-captive breeding program in Arizona is a temporary measure, continuing only until the species recovers to self-sustaining populations and thrives once again in the American southwest. “The Sonoran pronghorn are an integral element of this landscape, and they add to what makes the Sonoran Desert such a unique, biodiverse place,” said Schmidt. “They are the charismatic megafauna in the desert, and they are worth saving.”

Story Tags At-risk species Endangered and/or Threatened species Military Partnerships Written By Image Sandra Gladish Featured in the Story Aleksa McKay Greta Schmidt Endangered Species Act Media Contacts Sandra Gladish Facilities Arizona Ecological Services Field Office Cabeza Prieta National Wildlife Refuge Latest Stories History and Culture Welaka National Fish Hatchery Opens Public Hiking Trail Jul 13, 2026 Current Road Conditions at Pocosin Lakes National Wildlife Refuge Jul 9, 2026 Current Road Status at Alligator River National Wildlife Refuge Jul 8, 2026

Activity Time - Word Search

Find the words below in the puzzle. Words go across or down only.

Words to Find:

