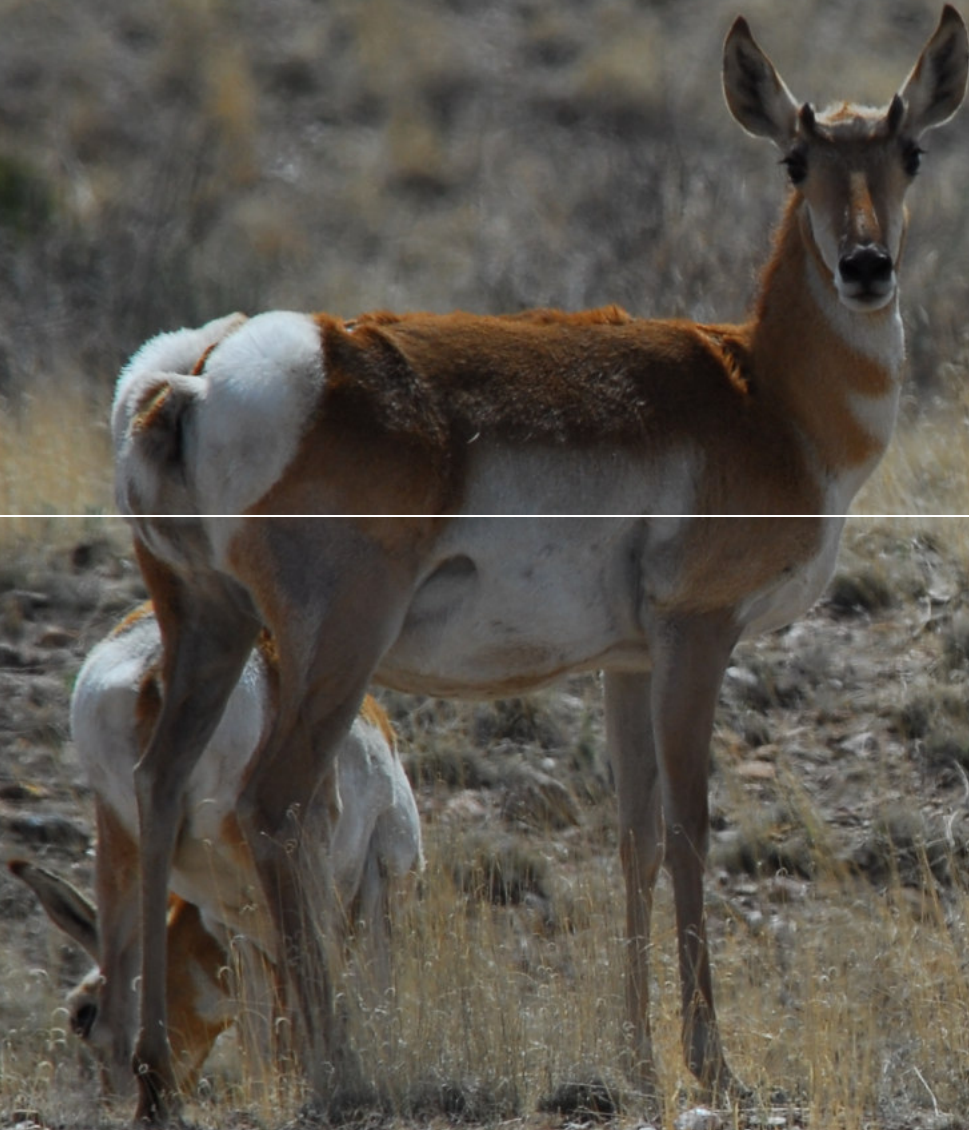




PRONGHORN

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Pronghorn is a quarterly newsletter for the members of AAF. Letters, comments, news items, articles, pictures and stories are all welcome and will be considered for publication. Address all such items to:

Pronghorn Editor, PO Box 12590, Glendale, AZ 85318, or by email at info@azantelope.org.

ON OUR COVER



Once again we are proud to display the beautiful work of Richard Ockenfels on our cover. The cover image is from this photo, taken in 2007. Richard recently retired from his position of Wildlife Biologist at AZ Game & Fish. During his tenure there, he served as a liason on the AAF Board .

Thanks for another great photo Richard!

2009 BOARD

At our 2008 Annual Meeting in November, the following were elected to serve on your AAF Board for the 2009 year:

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President – Jimmy Mehen
Vice President – Shane Stewart
Secretary – Open
Treasurer – Mary Keebler

DIRECTORS Term Ending 12/31/09:

Dave Verhelst, Dave Brown, Jim McCasland

DIRECTORS Term Ending 12/31/10:

Todd Hulm, Art Boswell, Jerry Guevin

THANKS!

To all who served on the AZ Antelope Foundation Board this past year, especially outgoing President Tice Supplee. We appreciate your dedication and contributions!

EZ RANCH PROJECT REPORT OCTOBER 18

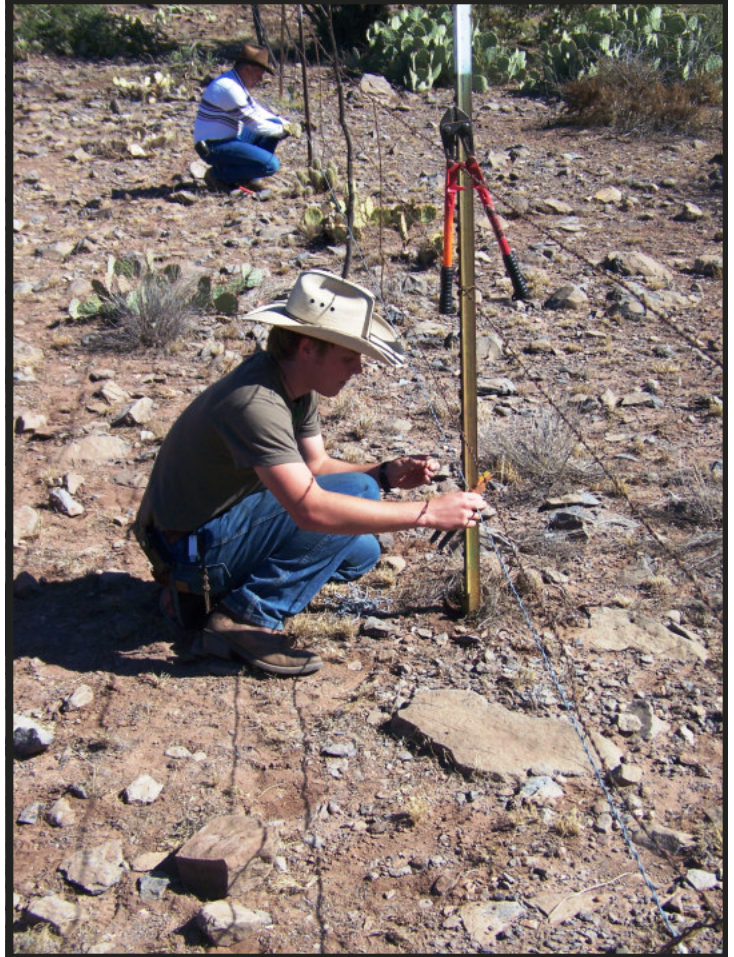
BY SHANE STEWART

Volunteerism was in the air for our October work project at the EZ Ranch East of Cordes Junction. As Friday night wore on more and more people began to show. By the time everyone was in and counted we had 78 volunteers from all over the state. This included 30 Boy Scouts from Queen Creek (TROOP #738), Friends of the Agua Fria, Rocky Mountain Elk Foundation, Arizona Wildlife Federation, students of ASU, NAU and proactive citizens. This is the largest turnout the organization has had at a work project, and is really encouraging to see what we are capable of.

The facilities at the EZ ranch were top notch, from the full service restrooms to the tree covered camping spots with full lighting, picnic tables and group areas. Scott Smith, the owner of the ranch made us all feel right at home.

Saturday morning began early with hot coffee prepared by the Keeblers and donuts for everyone provided by the Friends of the Agua Fria. A meeting was held to inform all volunteers of the work we would be completing and the safety precautions that would be observed. With everyone signed in and accounted for, the crowd was broken into 3 groups to tackle 3 separate sections of fence.

The basic crux of the project was to remove the bottom strand of barb wire from the fence sections and replace it with a properly placed smooth wire to allow unrestricted antelope movement. The areas where work was performed have been observed as a travel corridors for antelope in



this portion of Unit 21. This project goes hand in hand with the Juniper thinning project that has been ongoing in this area, and will go a long way in improving the amount of useable habitat in unit 21.

The groups were dispersed and given direction by G&F personnel as to their task to complete on each section of fence. Each group poured into their work with great enthusiasm, and it was great to see all of the youngsters working right along side the adults with a spirit that only kids can emit. As sections of the barb wire were removed, the wire was rolled using the AAF's fence roller mounted on an ATV. With constant supervision by G&F employees as well as experienced volunteers, the work went very smoothly and by around 4:00 pm the 3 fence sections

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(about 2.5 miles total) were completed.

Everyone began the trip back to the camp at the ranch headquarters, and got to enjoy seeing the Buffalo and Red Stag that are raised on the EZ ranch. Once back at camp the AAF prepared a steak dinner for all of the volunteers with all of the fixins'. Needless to say, after a day of hard work there wasn't a complaint to be heard, the meal was excellent. After dinner everyone was served a treat of homemade dutch oven cobblers and again there wasn't a grimace. Camp was broken up on Sunday and everyone headed their separate ways.

This was one of the most successful turnouts of volunteers, and will not soon be forgotten. It was truly a collaborative effort by many individuals and groups with the common goal of improving habitat. Thanks to everyone that came, "strength truly came in numbers"!!



WHY OUR FENCE WORK IS SO IMPORTANT....

Antelope prefer to crawl under fences rather than jump over them. They have been observed running up and down a fence line with a predator in pursuit, looking for a place to go under. Dave Sipe shared the photo on the left which shows what he believes to be scarring from an encounter with a fence that has not been modified to make it wildlife-friendly. If that was the case, this antelope was lucky. Antelope often get caught when trying to get across unimproved fences and face a much worse fate, as shown in the photo below from AZ Game & Fish archives.

If you haven't participated in one of our projects, please consider doing so. As you can see, this work can make a big difference for the antelope in our state to remain..

FREE TO ROAM



THE ROAD TO BARKERVILLE

BY DAVID E. BROWN



For those of you who may be new to the AAF, David is a former AZ Game & Fish Biologist, AAF Past President, current AAF Director, and regular contributor to the *Pronghorn*. His stories often give us a glimpse into the past about conservation, antelope and other wildlife in Arizona. This story is no exception. Here we share part one in a 2-part series written by David in 2002.

I shot an antelope October 22nd and still have the horns. From the measurements given below it will be seen that they are larger than those described by Mr. Compton, in November Recreation.

	Inches
Length of left horn around curve.....	17 1/4
Length of right horn around curve	17 3/8
Weight	125 pounds

*E.S. Dodge, Acadia Ranch, Oracle, AZ
Recreation, IX (Oct. 1898:307)*

lope Hill are located nearby. Indeed, early travelers described the area as being ideal antelope country:

On September 14, Leach followed the road west and proceeded up Putnam Wash. He was impressed by the grasslands south of the Torilla Mountains near Antelope Peak: "Our route lay for some distance over fine rolling land covered with the most luxuriant grama grass ever seen."

James Leach (1858) in
Man and Wildlife in Arizona,
Goode P. Davis, Ed. Arizona Game & Fish Dept.

Regrettably, pronghorn antelope can no longer be found anywhere in unit 37B. Early settlers were hard on the native pronghorn, and such open grassy country was soon settled. Seeps and windmills provided adequate water, and the abundance of grass assured plenty of livestock forage. So important were these grasslands to the livestock industry that Arizona State Land Commissioner Obed Lassen mapped and selected all of the higher, grassy portions of what would become Unit 37B for retention in state ownership. As a result, most of the State's grasslands, unlike the national forests, remained open to homesteading for small ranchers and herders through the 1920s. So many families had settled around Antelope Peak by this time that a small community named Barkerville had sprung up along what had once been the Leach Wagon Road. Like all such communities, Barkerville came with a general store and schoolhouse. The main means of making a living, however, was by tending cattle,



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Dodge, the owner of a guest ranch, was not alone in his assessment of Arizona's antelope. Our state has always been known for the quality of its pronghorn. According to the U.S. Geological Survey, more than one hundred Arizona place names contain the word antelope or pronghorn. Included among these appellations are numerous "antelope hills," several "antelope tanks," and a number of "antelope washes," "antelope draws," and "antelope ravines," and at least one "antelope mine" (near Cedar Mountain in Pinal County). The above statistics do not even consider that many Arizona pioneers called pronghorn antelope "goats," or "berrendos" if the settler happened to be Hispanic.

I know of at least three "Antelope Peaks" in southern Arizona, but the one that has always intrigued me the most resides northeast of the Black Mountains in Game Management Unit 37B. Rising abruptly to 4,375 feet, this granite extrusion stands silhouetted against a skyline of low hills and ridges like a gravestone. Old-timers tell me that the peak was so named because pronghorn invariably retreated to its slopes when pursued by hunters. Pronghorn must once have been numerous here as an Antelope Draw, an Antelope Tank, an Antelope Wash, and an Ante-

(Continued from page 6)

sheep, horses, and goats: sometimes even pigs were pastured in the chaparral on nearby Black Mountain. Any wildlife came upon was destined for the chili pot.

By 1930, deer were scarce and the pronghorn had disappeared. So had much of the grass, leaving mesquites and noxious shrubs in its wake. People began moving to town, and the smaller ranches were absorbed by their bigger neighbors. The school lacked enough pupils to remain open, and Barkerville vanished along with the antelope and most of the homesteaders. That was pretty much the way things were when I first visited Unit 37B in 1962, with its then Wildlife Manager, John Stair.

In the years that followed, when hunting quail, or while traveling between Oracle and Mammoth, I would see Antelope Peak silhouetted against the skyline and wonder about the pronghorn that once found refuge there. Other people had obviously also rued the unit's loss of pronghorn, as Arizona Game and Fish Department records show that four bucks from Anderson Mesa were sent to the Patterson Ranch near Oracle on February 15, 1943, and that six bucks and nine does were released at nearby T-W tank on March 12, 1945. Nine does were not very many animals, however, and after a few years people again stopped seeing antelope in 37B. The general consensus was that the country was now too brushy for pronghorn and that one had best settle for good numbers of mule deer and javelina to be found in the unit.

I had nonetheless always wanted to climb Antelope Peak, and on one cold, overcast day in March, I set out with Unit 37 Wildlife Manager John Windes to do so. On the way there, I could not help but notice what I perceived as a change in the countryside. Cattle were nearly absent or at least conspicuously few in comparison to what I had remembered. Although turpentine bush and burrowweed remained the dominant ground cover, grasses appeared to be more in evidence than in 1952. Much of the area, I was informed by John, had been placed in a state grass-bank program and had been rested for five years. When we arrived at Antelope Peak, I could not help but notice how much smaller it seemed than I had remembered. But then, time has a way of doing that.



West side of Antelope Peak, Photo by David Brown

The climb, although steep, was relatively easy. And, as on nearby Cottonwood Hill, I was pleased with the variety of grasses remaining on the slopes. Both hairy and black grama were present along with curly-mesquite grass and cottontop. I even saw a few clumps of the highly palatable bullgrass, *Muhlenbergia emersleyi*, as we stumbled our way towards the summit. Cow pies were few and I found at least one scaled quail roost as well as several groups of mule deer pellets. The power of grasses to recuperate from a century or more of predation never ceases to amaze me. Given enough rest, and the passage of time, I couldn't help but wonder if Antelope Peak might once again become a haven for pronghorn.

Having attained the highest point, a great panorama awaited us. There in the shadows of 5,587' Black Mountain, an African-like savanna of open mesquites stretched into the distance almost as far as the eye could see. Behind us, to the north, lay Cottonwood Hill and the Tortilla Mountains; to the south, toward the Catalina Mountains, we could see Oracle and Oracle Junction. Off to the west was Antelope Hill, and beyond that, the Florence Highway. Below us, we could see Antelope tank fringed in mesquite trees and visualize pronghorn once watering there. Eastward, with a tad more imagination, we could erase 150 years of occupancy, and approximate the route of the old Leach Wagon Road along Putnam Wash and through the undulating grasslands to the site of Barkerville. ... to be continued.

Read the rest of David's story in our next issue of the *Pronghorn*.

HUNTING ON THE ARMENDARIS RANCH

BY DON & KAY DAVIDSON



The hunt that almost didn't happen when my vacation was cancelled at the last minute, turned out to be a good weekend after all. We ended up driving all night to get to the hunt and luckily the outfitter got us into the ranch to get an hour of sleep before the hunt.

This was not a typical hunt. Since it was Kay's birthday weekend, I decided to let her have the first opportunity to shoot. The guide had spotted two nice bucks the day before and had a plan to find them again. We went out into the area at first light with another truck of hunters on a road about 1/2 mile apart. We spotted several different bucks but not the ones we looking for.

We decided to go back and look at a buck we saw at first light when we spotted one of the bucks that they saw the day before chasing a doe and another buck. We moved back to intercept the buck and got into a good position to do a sneak. We got about 119 yards from the buck and he was looking away from us. Kay was getting into a sitting position and raised her .243 up just in time for the buck to bed down and she could not get a shot, just the horns were visible! Kay and Brian (our guide) decided to move closer to see if they could get a shot and I decided to stay back and just watch. What happened next was not your typical antelope hunt and I am there without a video camera!

Kay and Brian kept moving closer to get a good

shot, with the buck taking a nap, nose in the dirt! They got to within 31 yards from the buck and decided that was close enough. Kay wanted to go and tap him on the head to wake him up! This is where we definitely needed a video camera!

Brian started to make some animal noises to try and get the buck to stand up. After several minutes of making animal noises, Brian started to wave his hat and started to make some louder noises, like screaming! The buffalo nearby started to think that Brian was trying a mating call and started to move our way. Remember that Kay is still sitting just 31 yards away looking at the horns of the buck through her scope! I was standing back behind a bush just laughing at this site!

Brian still could not get the buck to stand up, so he decided to try and move around to get upwind of the buck. Brian moved to about 100 yards from the buck upwind and started to jump up and down waving his arms and shouting! The buck looked once at him and put his nose back to the dirt to sleep! Brian kept his "antelope dance" up for about a minute and I guess the buck finally got tired of this crazy guy doing the dance and stood up looking away from him and the noise! Kay finally got to see the buck up close and personal. At that distance, looking through a scope, you can not tell what you are looking

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at! Kay took a shot, and being so close, the bullet actually is moving above what you are looking at through the scope and missed! (sorry Kay, I need to tell this part)

Well, either the buck was deaf or what, I do not know, but the buck then turned toward Brian and gave Kay a perfect side profile and this time she took the shot and put the buck down. I could not help but laugh about the "antelope dance" and how non-typical this hunt had been so far. I am proud of Kay on how she kept her composure and focus with all of the antics going on!

After taking care of Kay's buck and going back to the ranch to have lunch, we went out to try and find me a buck. We went out to the same area and started looking. The wind started to pick up and I did not think the antelope would be up and moving. As we were driving along looking in the distance for bucks, Brian stopped the truck and made the statement "remember not to look too far" and pointed out the drivers side window to show a nice antelope buck bedded down about 20 feet from the truck! It was a nice buck, but I had to "out do" Kay and he just did not measure up to hers, so we drove off!

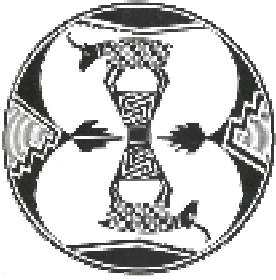
A little later, we spotted a buck that Brian thought might be a good buck. We looked at him for several minutes thru the spotting scope, but I was not sure this was the one I wanted. We drove a little farther and saw a couple more bucks and then decided to go for a hike and see the one we were looking at through the spotting scope. We came over a small hill, and spotted him and a doe and decided that this one was a fine buck. Brian and I did not think he would score high, boy were we wrong!

We got to within 212 yards and could not get any closer. The buck and doe spotted us and got up, again with the buck looking straight at us! I got ready and waited for the buck to turn toward the doe, and waited, and waited. After a couple of minutes, I told Brian he needed to do his dance! I was a little concerned with the 15-20 mph wind blowing across my line of fire and was thinking about the shot. The buck finally took a couple of steps and was still standing towards me! Again, we waited, looking through the scope for a couple of minutes, until the buck finally turned a little so I could get a shot.

This was a good ending to a quick, unusual but rewarding trip. After we got the antelope taken care of, we went on drive on the ranch and we saw buffalo and oryx.

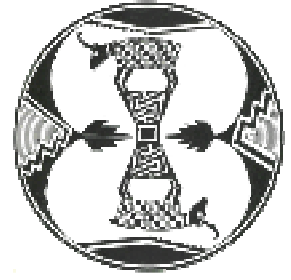


Editor's note: The Armendaris Ranch has made numerous hunt donations to the AAF fundraising banquets over the years, and is also a partner in a pronghorn aging study we've been conducting for several years.



SONORAN PRONGHORN

UPDATE



BY JILL BRIGHT AZ GAME & FISH
NOVEMBER, 2008

Captive Breeding:

North Half: All the pronghorn in the pen are doing well.

South Half: All the pronghorn are doing well.

Status of Pronghorn in Pen

(M = Male, F = Female)

	Wild pronghorn put into the pen	2005 recruitment	2006 recruitment	2007 recruitment	2008 recruitment	TOTAL in pen
NORTH HALF						
In Pen	5F, 1M	2F		4F, 4M	13 fawns	29
Released		4M	3M			
SOUTHWEST						
In Pen	5F		2F, 1M	3F, 2M	12 fawns	25
Released			2M			
						54

The capture bomas are almost ready in both the north and south pens. We are working on getting the triggering mechanism for the gates finalized and finished. After the gates are finished, we should be ready to capture and release juvenile males from the pen.

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Sonoran Pronghorn
AZ Game & Fish File Photo

(Continued from page 10)

2008 Released Males: We were able to download 851's collar on a flight in Mexico. He took a 200 mile journey from the pen to his current location with a herd on the east side of the Pinacate area in Mexico. On the way, he crossed Highway 85 north of Ajo 4 times, went over the top of the Crater Mountains, almost to Interstate 8 near Gila Bend, then west across North Tac, across the north part of the San Cristobal Valley, through the Mohawk Valley, over to near the south end of the Tinajas Altas Mountains. Then he crossed the border, crossed Mexican Highway 2 (three times) and around the west and south sides of Pinacate Mountains (see map).

2007 Released Males: Nothing new to report.

Water Projects: Nothing new to report.

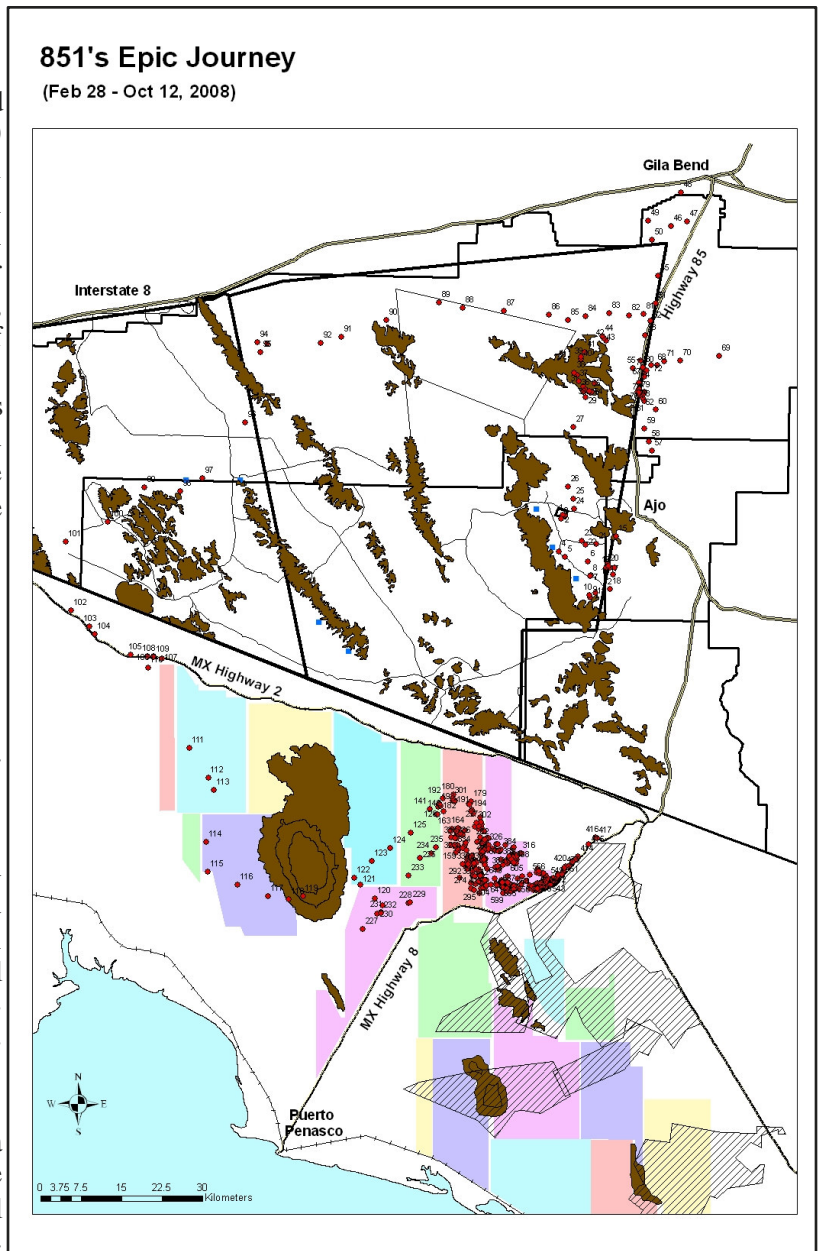
Forage Enhancements: Nothing new to report.

Other Projects: We are still moving forward with the preliminary steps for establishing a second population. We had public scoping meetings in Yuma, Tucson and Phoenix. Turnout was low at all meetings with only 8, 7 and 6 people attending respectively. The USFWS is accepting written comments until December 12.

We are planning a range-wide survey for Arizona this December. We will start on the west side of the range on December 6, finishing up on the Tactical Ranges on December 14. If range conditions permit, and we can secure a helicopter, we plan to capture 2 females to put GPS collars on and a wild adult male for the pen after the survey.

Wild Pronghorn: Nothing new to report.

Personnel: We now only have 2 of the 4 positions filled and the state government is under a hiring freeze. However, we were able to get exemptions to the freeze, and are in the process of recruiting people for these positions.



Renew your membership today!

THE DUST PROBLEM: A DIRTY LITTLE ISSUE

BY MIKE SENN, ASSISTANT DIRECTOR OF FIELD OPERATIONS, AZ GAME & FISH

Ever wonder what that brown cloud hanging over Phoenix is? Most of us think it is just part of living in a big city, and probably don't give it much thought. While the brown cloud can certainly have detrimental impacts on human health, the regulations that are established to help reduce the brown cloud may also impact your ability to access your favorite hunting, fishing or wildlife viewing area near your home. Ever driven out to your favorite local spot on opening morning only to find it closed? Now imagine if nearly every area in Maricopa County was closed; you can begin to understand the impact the brown cloud may have on your ability to hunt, fish or enjoy wildlife in Maricopa County. Everyone is certainly concerned about their health, but for most of us, part of that is our mental health, and access to our favorite honey hole and being in the great outdoors is essential to our sanity.

In addition to potential impacts to human health, the brown cloud can also cause property damage like when it rains and your favorite truck gets covered with a brown, muddy haze. After the rain, we actually realize what it feels like to breath clean air again, at least for a little while, until the brown cloud is formed once again. That brown cloud is actually due to air borne pollutants, called Particulate Matter 10 emissions, and is usually expressed as PM₁₀. PM₁₀ emissions are air borne pollutants that are 2.5 to 10 microns in size. While PM₁₀ is the technical term, most of us know this pollutant as just plain old dust.

In 1970 the Clean Air Act (CAA) was established to address the nation's problems with air pollutants, and was again substantially revised in 1990. Through the CAA, the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) set standards for the amounts of airborne pollutants in the United States. Construction, agricultural activities, paved and unpaved roads, as well as windblown dust have all been identified as the main causes of dust emissions in Arizona. Continued failure for Maricopa County to meet EPA standard for dust emissions threatened the loss of over \$1.2 billion in federal highway funds for Arizona, and a 5% reduction of dust emissions per year was required in order keep these funds.

Continued failure to meet EPA standards on dust emissions led to the passage of House Bill 1552 (HB1552) by the Arizona Legislature in 2006, that required the 22 cities and towns in Area A, covering most of Maricopa and some of Pinal County, to enact new ordinances to reduce dust emissions. Unfortunately, this has also included prohibitions on vehicles operating on unpaved surfaces that are not a public or private road, street, or lawful easement. Therein lies the rub, because the prohibitions designed to reduce dust emissions and protect your health can also impact your ability to access your favorite hunting or fishing spots in Area A.

In response to HB1552 Maricopa County revised

(Continued on page 13)



South Mountain in Phoenix—can you see it?

(Continued from page 12)

and strengthened several dust ordinances, including Ordinances P-27 and P-28. P-27 deals with the use of parking or driving on unstabilized lots. However, P-28 has much more far reaching effects on your ability to maintain access for sportsmen in Maricopa County. P-28 is a strict liability ordinance that prohibits the use of vehicles on unpaved property in the unincorporated areas of Maricopa County unless: 1) it is a route or public property that is designated as open by the governing land management agency through rule, regulation or order; or 2) it is private property and the area or route is signed as open, or you have obtained prior written permission from the property owner, lessee or agent.

As you are probably painfully aware, this may have the ability to seriously restrict access for sportsmen in Maricopa County as not all public access routes are publicly maintained or properly designated as open by the land management agency with jurisdiction. This may be especially problematic in accessing private land to hunt small game or dove, as most private property owners may passively allow access, but certainly won't go through the effort of posting their land open or subject themselves to giving written permission to a horde of dove hunters on opening morning. Since most hunters often start by banging away at cottontails, dove or quail, it is possible that the lack of convenient hunting opportunities close to home could diminish our ability to successfully raise the next generation of sportsmen.

While many of you may have already written off any serious hunting opportunities in Maricopa County, there are currently approximately 4.28 million acres of unincorporated land in the County, and 500,000 acres of State Trust lands. It includes all or the majority of Game Management Units 26M, 39, 40A, 42, and 47M; and portions of 20B, 21, 22, 24B, 25M, 40B, 41, 32, and 44A. It also encompasses all or portions of the Superstition, Mazatal (Four Peaks), Maricopa, Gila Bend, White Tank, Sierra Estrella, Eagle Tail, Big Horn, and Harquahala Mountain Ranges. In total, this may affect 7 desert bighorn sheep tags (11% of all desert BHS tags), 1,500 deer tags and over 125,000 small game hunters. To put it in an economic perspective, hunters and anglers spend over \$409 million annually in Maricopa County alone.

In addition to Maricopa County, there are 22 cities and towns within Area A that are all required to pass ordinances limiting dust emissions. Some of you may have already seen some of the impacts from these ordinances, like the City of Scottsdale Ordinance 3776 which prohibits the use of any motorized vehicle on anything but a dust free surface. Dust free surfaces include pavement, gravel of more than three inches and areas treated with city approved soil treatments. This ordinance effectively shut down the Granite Mountain Multi-use area to all motorized use since miles of trails simply could not be cost effectively stabilized for dust reduction in any approved

manner.

It is obvious that action must be taken to help reduce dust emissions and the brown cloud hanging over Phoenix. However, it does not appear that many of the ordinances currently being passed or proposed by Maricopa County and some municipalities are taking into consideration reasonable access needs for outdoor-related recreation. To this end, the Department has been actively working with officials from the Maricopa County Department of Air Quality to develop policy direction that will help to provide for reasonable access for sportsmen and wildlife enthusiasts. The Game and Fish Commission also provided comments to Maricopa County on some recently proposed changes to Ordinance P-28, and the Department provided comments to Pinal County on their recently proposed ordinances that will allow access for properly licensed sportsmen.

Granted it's a little hard to get excited about dust when we're in the middle of hunting season, but if you are wondering what you can do to help maintain or improve access for wildlife-related recreation while reducing your dust emissions, here's some tips.

- Watch for any ordinances that are being passed by your local town, city or county relating to controlling dust emissions, and provide comments that you want to ensure that reasonable access is maintained for wildlife-related recreation.
- The Maricopa County Air Quality Department is current reviewing and considering changes to Ordinance P-28. Now is an excellent time to provide comments to them.
- Work with your federal and state land management agencies to ensure that they officially designate access routes that are important to you during their travel management or planning activities.
- Work with local private property owners, farmers or lessees to ensure they maintain public access for wildlife-related recreation, including considering "Adopt-A-Ranch" or other stewardship programs.
- Stay on existing roads and trails. Cross country travel can break up the fragile crust on desert soils, making what lies beneath highly susceptible to wind and water erosion.

While we all need to find ways to help minimize our contributions to the brown cloud for the benefit of our health, we can never forget how important engaging in our favorite outdoor pastime is to maintaining our mental health. As such, we need to continue to work with our local municipalities, and federal and state land management agencies to develop solutions that not only effectively reduce dust emissions, but maintain reasonable access for wildlife-related recreation. Your next hunt may depend on it.

“BACK UP BUCK”

BY LLOYD WUNDROCK

In February I applied for an antelope tag as close as possible to my home in Tucson. In April I was elated to discover that I had drawn the muzzleloader antelope tag for GMU 34B northeast of Sonoita, Arizona. Scouting, research on the latest muzzleloading bullets and load development available began in earnest. My plan from the onset was to include my son, Patrick Martin who is nine, in as many preparation activities and as much actual hunting time as possible. Patrick has been raised in a hunting household and had accompanied me on upland bird, predator, dove, jackrabbit, javelina and Coues Whitetailed Deer hunts in recent seasons.



On one of our earliest scouting trips we found a buck that looked very large as it was only April! Patrick immediately dubbed him “Spike”. We patterned at least 8-10 other bucks and all received names so it was easier to plot scouting and future hunting strategy. Spike had a very large right horn and what looked to be a palmated “paddle” on his left side. This buck was by far the largest we were able to find in our hunting area. Patrick continued to push me to commit to shooting this buck if the opportunity presented itself during the season that was to start on September 5th. I repeatedly responded that we had essentially won the Arizona big game lottery and would do whatever it took to harvest the most mature and largest buck we could find in the unit.

My last scouting trip took place on August 30th and Spike was alive and well through nine days of the 14-day archery season. There was only one archery tag available for the unit. Patrick and I both felt that there was a good chance Spike would survive until our season began

in a matter of days.

I was later shocked and dismayed to learn that Spike had been tagged by the archer on Labor Day! We really did not have a “plan B” and our season was to start in three days! Well, two close friends tried to prevent any panic and assured me that we would be OK for the pending hunt.

Opening day was rapidly upon us and Patrick and I were on the road from Tucson by mid-morning. We hunted very hard all day passing on at least seven bucks we felt we could better. Very late in the day and essentially on our way home, we bumped into a herd of antelope and after determining with our binoculars that a buck was part of the herd, had to back out to plan a successful approach close enough for a killing shot. Patrick grabbed my shooting sticks and the range finder from the truck and followed right behind me in my footsteps on the final stalk. I had previously coached him to range on the head and horns of a buck as the grass in some locations in Las

Cienegas was nearly chest high. At the last available cover to hide both of us, Patrick cautiously stepped out, hit the range finder twice and stated, “Dad he is at 144 yards, you can take him!” I then took a broadside shot off of the shooting sticks and minutes later we were standing over OUR trophy antelope. Patrick later helped me with all of the photos, caping, field dressing and butchering chores.

Most important to me is the renewed understanding that I could not have done this alone and added realization that Patrick and I have, through this hunt, cemented a father-son bond that will last me the rest of my life.



BALANCING ACT

BY CORBIN NEWMAN, COCONINO NATIONAL FOREST

National Forests were created to provide for the needs of our citizens. Your national forests provide clean water and air, abundant wildlife habitat, wood products for commercial and personal use, livestock grazing, and ever more importantly, recreation opportunities. The Forest Service's challenge is how to balance these sometime competing needs.

Today, more Americans than ever before are enjoying recreational opportunities in their national forests. One of those legitimate uses is motorized recreation. Nowhere is this more apparent than in the Southwest. In many places where restrictions on motorized travel are minimal, we are seeing damage or the potential for damage that demands action. Designating roads, trails and other areas for motorized vehicle use is one of the priorities for the Forest Service today.

In 2005, the Forest Service announced travel management regulations called the Travel Management Rule, governing off highway vehicles (OHVs) and other motorized vehicles on national forests and grasslands. The core of the new rule prohibits cross-country travel by motorized vehicles off designated roads, trails and areas. That means national forests that do not restrict motorized travel to "designated roads, trails and areas" must now do so. The result will be that motorized vehicles must remain on the designated transportation system while on these public lands. Exceptions for motor vehicle use will be granted under written authorizations for purposes such as contracts or permits.

Forest Service employees are working with forest visitors and users to identify a system of roads, trails and areas open to motorized use that meets access needs while protecting wildlife, watersheds, soils, and other natural resources. They will examine potential environmental, economic and social impacts to communities, address public access issues on private property, and look at the serious safety concerns associated with motorized vehicles on Forest Service roads.

The six national forests in Arizona are at different stages of travel management planning. The Coconino and Kaibab National Forests have conducted many public meetings and discussed travel management at every opportunity with those interested in this important issue. The Coconino issued a proposed transportation system (Proposed Action) in July 2007. Forest employees continue to review and analyze the many public comments received to formulate viable alternatives to the proposed action. The Kaibab National Forest is working on En-

vironmental Assessment documents for both its Williams and Tusayan ranger districts and is just beginning the travel management process for its North Kaibab district.

I know that each Arizona forest supervisor is committed to informing and working with local communities, interest groups, tribal governments and others who are interested in motorized vehicle use. It is our sincere hope that the end result will be a system of designated roads, trails and areas tailored to local conditions and needs that is balanced socially and economically, and is environmentally sustainable over time. We will review and update designated routes and areas annually as necessary to ensure they are meeting local needs while protecting our natural resources. Your involvement in travel management is important, and your support of what we are trying to accomplish is crucial. I encourage you to participate, and together we'll ensure that tomorrow's generations are able to enjoy their national heritage.

In my position as the regional forester for the Forest Service's Southwestern Region, I've had the opportunity to meet individuals, interest groups and members of local communities. A lasting impression of those visits is the importance of our Southwest forests and grasslands to the people of Arizona. These forests and grasslands helped define the culture and character of many communities and are woven together with the

people and history of the Southwest.

I recognize the Travel Management Rule will change the way some people experience their national forests. I want to assure you that people will be able to access their national forests, and activities such as hunting, camping, and firewood gathering will continue after implementation of the rule. What will change is unmanaged cross-country motorized travel off designated roads and trails. This change is critical so that all of us and future generations can enjoy, in

our own way, these unique public lands.

Additional Note: The preceding article is an editorial which was submitted to the AZ Daily Sun in October. This is part of the Forest Service's effort to inform the public about TMR. The Coconino released its Proposed Action in July 2007, and since the first round of TMR public meetings in 2006 the Coconino has collected and analyzed more than 1,300 public comments. In the months to come, the TMR team will finish analysis of the alternatives and issue a Draft Environmental Impact Statement this winter, followed by a 45-day comment period. The Final EIS is planned to be released next summer.



HUNTING SHOTS



Above: Connie Taylor Unit 8 Sep. 2008

Right: Tod Molesworth 17" New Mexico Unit 54 Sep. 2008



Editor's Note: We received more photos and stories than we had room for in this edition, so look for more shots in our next issue. If you have a photo and/or story you'd like to share, send good quality digital photos to info@azantelope.org



WELCOME NEW MEMBERS

Salena Bargsley, Mesa
Christian Beeso, Scottsdale
Jason Browne, Flagstaff
Trista Buchanan, Chandler
Sarah Burchett, Tempe
Rachel Burmeister, Paradise Valley
Joanne Cherry, Queen Creek
Randall Clarkson, Fountain Hills
Robyn Davidson, Phoenix
Melanie Erysrom, Phoenix
Tim Flood, Phoenix
Randy Gaskill, Show Low

Wasonhiosta George, Maricopa
Jim Jensen, Queen Creek
Andrew Lemcke, Florence
Kurt & Cindy McDavid, Queen Creek
Larua Mercado, Phoenix
Janet Millard, Phoenix
Andrew Oldak, Phoenix
Jeremy Millard, Phoenix
Jeremy Pennell, Tempe
Krystal Mejia Perez, Tempe
Stephanie Prevost, Scottsdale
Rick Ridge way, Ventura, CA

Paul Sandstrom, Prescott
Sara Smith, Peoria
Jonathan Snyder, Queen Creek
Kyle Taylor, Gilbert
Floramae Teskey, Mayer
Paul Tomas, Florence
Jason Tomkins, Mayer
Mark vale, Cordes Lakes
Seth Wakeling, Phoenix
Colby Walton, Goodyear
Ken Ward, Gilbert
Vilma Ward, Mayer

Congratulations to Tim Blank of Mesa for becoming Life Member #35!



SHORT SHOTS

OCTOBER 2008 PROJECT VOLUNTEERS

Thanks for helping!

- | | |
|----------------------|-----------------------|
| Phoenix Metro Area: | Al Sue |
| Boy Scout Troop #738 | Kyle Taylor |
| Salena Bargsely | Jay Vaca |
| Christian Beeso | Brian Wakeling |
| Mark Boswell | Seth Wakeling |
| Kyler Boswell | Colby Walton |
| Zachary Boswell | Ken Ward |
| Lita Bozler | Jim Warnecke |
| David Brown | Dana Warnecke |
| Trista Buchanan | Allen Werkmeister |
| Sarah Burchett | Darlene Werkmeister |
| Rachel Burmeister | Scott Smith, EZ Ranch |
| Joanne Cherry | Jake Fousek |
| Randall Clarkson | Troy Christensen |
| Robyn Davidson | Sal Polazzo |
| Melanie Erystrom | |
| Tim Flood | |
| Wasonhiosta George | Northern AZ: |
| Todd Hulm | Josh Bahling |
| Sammie Hulm | Jason Browne |
| Jim Jensen | Bill & Mary Keebler |
| Larry Langstaff | Jimmy Mehen |
| Kurth McDavid | Richard Ockenfels |
| Cindy McDavid | Paul Sandstrom |
| Larua Mercado | Jason Tomkins |
| Andrew Millard | Mark Vale |
| Jeremy Pennell | Vilma Ward |
| Krystal Perez | |
| Janet Millard | |
| Stephanie Prevost | Southern AZ: |
| Sara Smith | Art Boswell |
| Jonathan Snyder | Andrew Lemcke |
| Shane & Jodi Stewart | Paul Tomas |
| Cade & Maci Stewart | |
| Elizabeth Stewart | |

NEXT PROJECT

Don't miss our next work project. Please note the date has changed to **March 14-15**. This is a fence removal project at Ash Creek Ranch in Unit 21. Please watch your mail for a project flyer. When details are available they will also be published on our website.

ANTELOPE DAY AT HORSESHOE RANCH

This get together is scheduled for **February 28th** and will be very informative regarding antelope habitat and management in Unit 21. The Agua Fria National Monument is located in this game unit, and contains a number of antelope. Look for more information soon on our website.

CONDOLENCES

The wildlife community recently lost a valuable member. AZ Game & Fish biologist Ted McKinney passed away in late October. His legacy is the many lives he personally and professionally touched during his time amongst us. His dedication to the work of the Department on behalf of Arizona's wildlife continues through his request that memorial donations be made in his honor to the agency's Big Game Donation Fund. An on-line guest book has been established for those who would like to leave a personal reminiscence <http://www.legacy.com/AZCentral/GB/GuestbookView.aspx?PersonId=119572793>.

BOW DELUXE WORKSHOP

Becoming an Outdoors-Woman (BOW) is a workshop sponsored by The Arizona Wildlife Federation 3 times per year. It provides an opportunity for women to become exposed to outdoor activities in a fun, non-threatening environment. But even "seasoned" outdoor women can fine-tune their skills, or explore new ways to enjoy the outdoors.

The dates for the Deluxe workshop are February 6-8, 2009. It will be in the Goldfield Mountain Range. This retreat will showcase the beauty and wonder of our desert. The place is Saguaro Lake Ranch, which is a historical resort style retreat located in the Tonto National Forest in the heart of the Arizona Sonoran desert. The banks of the Salt River are a fly rod cast away and Stewart Mountain Dam, which backs up Saguaro Lake, is a short walk.

This unique venue provides both trout fishing and bass fishing opportunities for BOW participants. Classes will be offered in boating, fishing, birding, hunting desert critters, varmint calling, photography, trick track trail Sonoran style, edible and medicinal plants of the southwest desert, desert survival, and Dutch oven cooking. A trail ride is also available, and evening entertainment will be provided.

Details of class descriptions as well as registration materials can be found at www.azwildlife.org or call 480-644-0077.

HAVE A QUESTION OR COMMENT?
"SHOOT BACK AT US" AT
INFO@AZANTELOPE.ORG
WWW.AZANTELOPE.ORG

ARIZONA BIG GAME SUPER RAFFLE 2009 CAMPAIGN HAS BEGUN

Here's your chance to win the hunt of a lifetime, or a fantastic Swarovski 5-piece optics package. Hunt for 365 days almost anywhere in the state for the 2009-2010 hunting season if you win one of the tags in this raffle! Arizona offers some of the best trophy opportunities in North America for each of these species:

- **Antelope**
- **Black Bear**
- **Buffalo**
- **Coues Whitetail**
- **Desert Bighorn Sheep**
- **Elk**
- **Javelina**
- **Mt. Lion**
- **Mule Deer**
- **Turkey (Goulds or Merriams)**



There are very few limitations on hunting areas and the prices for each ticket have been set to give every hunter in the world an opportunity to win a true hunt of a lifetime. Prices range from \$5-25 each.

These Special Tags are designed to earn money for wildlife and wildlife management in Arizona. Since its inception in 2006, over \$1.5 million has been raised by the Arizona Big Game Super Raffle! Every dollar earned for each species is returned to the Arizona Game and Fish Department and managed by the Arizona Habitat Partnership Committee (AHPC) for that particular species. With input from 12 local habitat partners across the state, as well as the input from the organizations involved with the fund raising, they collectively determine which projects will provide the most benefit to each species represented.



Operating costs are covered entirely by sales of the Optics Raffle tickets as well as contributions from the sponsoring organizations. The management of the raffle is overseen by a volunteer board of directors.

Don't miss your opportunity to win. Tickets are on sale NOW and continue through early July. You may complete the order form printed in this publication or purchase tickets online.

The drawing will take place in conjunction with our 6th Annual Fundraising Banquet **July 18, 2009** and the hunts begin August 15, 2009.

www.arizonabiggamesuperraffle.com



ARIZONA BIG GAME SUPER RAFFLE

Sponsors: Arizona Game & Fish Commission • AZ Antelope Foundation • AZ Bowhunters Association
 AZ Chapter of Safari Club International • AZ Deer Association • AZ Desert Bighorn Sheep Society
 AZ Elk Society • AZ Wildlife Federation • Wild Sheep Foundation • Mule Deer Foundation
 National Wild Turkey Federation • AZ Chapters of the Rocky Mountain Elk Foundation

(A)

For information go to www.arizonabiggamesuperraffle.com

MAIL ORDERS MUST BE RECEIVED BY JULY 3, 2009
ONLINE ORDERS WILL BE AVAILABLE THROUGH
SUNDAY, JULY 12, 2009

		Number of Entries Add total number of entries ordered at the bottom of this column	Cost per Entry	Dollar Amount Add total number of dollars at bottom of column
ANTELOPE	365 Day Season • Per Commission Order 29		\$20 each	
BLACK BEAR	365 Day Season • Per Commission Order 29		\$5 each	
BUFFALO	365 Day Season • Per Commission Order 29		\$20 each	
COUES WHITETAIL	365 Day Season • Per Commission Order 29		\$10 each	
DESERT BIGHORN	365 Day Season • Per Commission Order 29		\$25 each	
ELK	365 Day Season • Per Commission Order 29		\$25 each	
JAVELINA	365 Day Season • Per Commission Order 29		\$5 each	
MOUNTAIN LION	365 Day Season • Per Commission Order 29		\$5 each	
MULE DEER	365 Day Season • Per Commission Order 29		\$20 each	
TURKEY Gould's or Merriams	365 Day Season • Per Commission Order 29		\$5 each	
SWAROVSKI OPTICS RAFFLE STS80 Spotting Scope • 15x56 SLC Binoculars • Range Finder 10x42 EL Binoculars • 4x12x50 Rifle Scope			\$10 each	
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No purchase necessary. One raffle ticket will be available free of charge to anyone requesting a ticket by mail. Void where prohibited by mail.



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SPORTSMAN'S CALENDAR OF UPCOMING EVENTS!

<i>WHAT?</i>	<i>WHEN?</i>	<i>WHERE?</i>
The Arizona Antelope Foundation	January 12 6:30 PM	The Phoenix Zoo
Board Meetings	February 9 6:30 PM	455 N. Galvin Parkway
	March 9 6:30 PM	
AAF Work Projects	March 14-15, 2009	Ash Creek Ranch
	May 16-17, 2009	Yavapai Ranch
	August 8-9, 2009	Anderson Mesa
	Mid October	Unit 21
The Wildlife Conservation Council	January 27 6:30 PM	1150 E. Jefferson St.
Board Meetings	February 24 6:30 PM	Phoenix
	March 24 6:30 PM	
AAF Clinic	June 16, 2009	Sportsman's Warehouse
AAF Banquet	July 18, 2009	TBA
AZ Big Game Super Raffle Drawing	July 18, 2009	TBA
"Antelope Day"	February 28, 2009	Horseshoe Ranch