



# PRONGHORN

*1<sup>st</sup> Quarter 2012*  
*Volume 18 Number 1*



# ARIZONA ANTELOPE FOUNDATION, INC.

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### AAF Mission Statement:

The Arizona Antelope Foundation is an organization dedicated to the welfare of pronghorn antelope. The Foundation's Mission is to actively seek to increase pronghorn populations in Arizona through habitat improvements, habitat acquisition, the translocation of animals to historic range, and public comment on activities affecting pronghorn and their habitat.



## ON OUR COVER

We thank Betty Dickens of Tucson for sharing this photo she entitled "Sonoita Buck". The photo was taken south of Highway 83 in September 2011. Betty is the wife of AAF Life Member and Director Glen Dickens. Look for more of Betty's photos in this issue. We welcome her to our list of Pronghorn contributors!

*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: Tracy Unmacht, Pronghorn Editor, PO Box 12590, Glendale, AZ 85318, or by email at [info@azantelope.org](mailto:info@azantelope.org).*

## PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

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I recently stumbled across a speech that President Lyndon B. Johnson made to Congress in 1965 on "Conservation and Restoration of Natural Beauty". In this speech President Johnson outlines the needs of the country's natural resources and the problems they face. In the speech he says:

*"To deal with these new problems will require a new conservation. Our conservation must be not just the classic conservation of protection and development, but a creative conservation of restoration and innovation."*

As I read the speech one thought became perfectly clear; issues are not changing or improving. The issues that President Johnson covers in his speech are the same issues we are dealing with today, only today they are much more compounded in their scale and complexities.

As a society and as a group who is trying to conserve one of this state's most beautiful and also threatened species; we must ever evolve in the ways that we look to conserve these resources. What was effective 10 years ago may not necessarily be effective or relevant today. Many times we must be willing to utilize our re-

sources in ways that we never imagined, or were once deemed unnecessary; to reap the benefits that in the big picture will further our abilities to improve the resource.

As a technology based business owner I am constantly struggling to stay ahead of the learning curve, and thinking ahead to stay in front of the trends. I do this so my business is always in a position to be "relevant" and our services needed. Playing "catch up" is never a position any organization, be it one in industry or conservation, wants to be in. We must always strive to find new and creative avenues with which to further our long term goals, while at the same time be willing to welcome these new ideas when they are presented to us. We are creatures of habit, and we like it when things stay the same. Unfortunately, they never do, and we must be willing to accept these undulations with open minds. Our ability to adapt with forward thinking ideas will put us in front of the curve.

With that being said, I assure you that the board of the Arizona Antelope Foundation is truly a group of adaptive and motivated forward thinking individuals. Never ones left to rest on our laurels, we are ever evolving our ideas and approaches to meet with the continually changing landscape we are trying to preserve. Our recent banquet is one example of this. AAF went with a completely new and refreshing concept, which proved to be a resounding success with those who so graciously attended. But, from this initial new endeavor have come many new ideas that will only go to improve the experience next year. I would like to personally thank all the organizers and attendees for an extremely successful event.

While we are on the topic of the banquet the AAF had the pleasure of selling one of the Commissioners antelope tags for \$42,000.00!! Each year the Arizona Game and Fish Commission authorizes the sale of three Antelope tags that allow the buyer the ability to hunt antelope in any authorized antelope hunt unit for 365 days utilizing the weapon of their choice.

This program has been a resounding success story since its inception. By utilizing the perceived value of a fractional percentage of the species, we are able to generate dollar amounts that could never be realized by typical process. This money is then utilized in the Arizona Game and Fish departments Habitat Partnership Committee (HPC) which puts the money towards habitat

*(Continued on page 16)*

# PRONGHORN CAPTURE UPDATE

BY GLEN DICKENS

On January 24-26 and again on February 14-17, 2012, Arizona Antelope Foundation (AAF) board members, 50+ volunteers and 30+ Arizona Game and Fish Department employees valiantly attempted to capture pronghorn in the Prescott area. The purpose of this capture project was to bolster two pronghorn populations with additional numbers and genetic diversity in southeastern Arizona in Units 35A and B (Elgin and San Rafael Valley areas), while keeping the Prescott area pronghorn population in Unit 19A at a manageable size and allow for continued recruitment of fawns.

The project activity included constructing 1-2 miles of wing fences, an alleyway fence, and corral, which can take up to 2 days to complete. Then one day of capture time using ground spotters and a helicopter to bring nearby herds of pronghorn to the trap site and drive them into the mouth of the wing fences. Everything went on capture day one on January 26, and while many groups of pronghorn were safely guided to the trap, each and every group failed to enter the critical alleyway of the trap leading to the actual capture corral. During previous capture attempts in prior years, pronghorn had always been able to push through the alleyway, although occasionally groups had eluded capture.

After the first unsuccessful day, trap fence modifications were made with similar negative results on January 27. This put the fall back dates of February 14-17 in play, and another pasture and trap location was selected for the next capture attempt. And much to everyone's chagrin with the exact same results on February 17; pronghorn groups came to the wings but would not go down or into the alleyway. On this weekend the trap was actually taken down and put back up in yet a third location in just one day for a final attempt on Friday February 18, but alas the same negative results.

Seems every lead pronghorn doe in the capture vicinity had taken and graduated from the class *"How to evade herd capture 101."* They simply, singly, and as a group were reacting to something they found out of order either visually or physically with the actual trap and as such outwitted their captors by "churning" in the wing vicinity and finally tiring of the helicopter simply leaving and ignoring attempts to bring them back.

HMMM..... huge sighs and shared headaches by everyone present; professionals and civilians alike! The

*(Continued on page 5)*



*(Pronghorn Capture Update continued from page 4)*

hours of thought, discussion, debating, conferring that occurred on both weekends would exceed hundreds I am certain. The key question “what it is that must be modified to overcome this across-the board species reaction to the trap or trap site(s)?” Extremely puzzling and subject to much professional Monday-morning quarterbacking even as this article goes to press. For next year, new approaches and changes will be implemented and conferred on with the Utah and New Mexico Game and Fish Departments who regularly capture pronghorn using similar trap designs. Current plans are to go again in 2013 during the same time frame.

That said the professionalism, persistence, and adaptive management techniques employed by all the Arizona Game and Fish Department personnel present over those eight days should make every citizen of the state

of Arizona proud. They certainly earned the respect from all the volunteers and AAF Board members present as they repeatedly shifted locations, design, and fence crossings attempting to ensure capture success. At the risk of not recognizing the many deserving involved and committed Department employees we must give credit and recognition to two key Kingman Regional wildlife personnel those being; Erin Butler, Regional Game Specialist and Virginia Gouldsbury District Wildlife Manager. And from the Phoenix Game Branch, Branch Chief Brian Wakeling and Big Game Supervisor Amber Munig. Without the planning, organization, coordination, and patience of these four Department personnel the entire endeavor would not have been possible. We AAF Board members who participated, including Bill Keebler, Al Sue, Jim McCasland and yours truly tip our hat to you all and have already signed up to assist in our collective success “next year.”



Chino Valley High student volunteers place antelope decoy



Spotters



The chase.



SO CLOSE!

*All photos by Betty Dickens*

# BANQUET 2012 RUSTLER'S ROOSTE



Youth!

Cornhole Game

AAF Life Members in attendance

Corporate donor and Life Member Art Pearce

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## THANK YOU TO OUR 2012 FUNDRAISER DONORS

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Susan Denham  
Tammy Uhles  
Tice Supplee  
Tracy Unmacht  
Wilderness Quest  
Zulu Nyala

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## THANK YOU TO OUR 2012 FUNDRAISER VOLUNTEERS

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Art Boswell  
Mark Boswell  
Ethan Boswell  
Kyler Boswell  
Samuel Boswell  
Pete Cimellaro  
Eddy Corona  
Todd Hulm, Co-chair  
David Hussey  
Don Johnson  
Bill Keebler  
Mary Keebler, Co-chair  
Dave Laird  
Warren Leek

Jim McCasland & Deb McCasland  
Jimmy & Susie Mehen  
Jay Morrison  
Richard Ockenfels  
Joe Bill Pickrell  
Cade Stewart  
Jodi & Shane Stewart  
Maci Stewart  
Tice Supplee  
Al Sue  
Connie & Rose Taylor  
Frank Tennant  
Jim & Tracy Unmacht  
Ron & Karen Yee

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# 20<sup>TH</sup> ANNUAL AAF HUNTER CLINIC

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## JUNE 16<sup>TH</sup> ARIZONA GAME & FISH 5000 W. CAREFREE HIGHWAY PHOENIX

Draw results should be available soon, but whether you have an antelope tag or not, you are welcome to join us at our annual clinic to increase your knowledge of pronghorn and pronghorn hunting! We plan on having another great slate of speakers to give you pointers on what to do, and why! And Game & Fish Wildlife Managers from various units will be on hand to share information on your particular game unit.

If you're an AAF member, come out and visit your fellow AAF members, it won't cost you anything. Non-members will be asked to contribute a nominal donation which can be applied toward AAF membership through 2013.

Antelope hunting can be immensely enjoyable if you know what you're doing, otherwise it can be immensely frustrating! This clinic will provide excellent up-to-date information about everything you need to know for a successful hunt. We'll cover the following subjects:

- Arizona Pronghorn History
- State of Arizona's Pronghorn
- Optics & Photography
- Taxidermy
- Practical Field Care
- Hunting Tactics for Firearms and Archery
- Question and Answer Session
- Discussions with Game & Fish Wildlife Managers for your Unit

Watch your mail and our website for more details.

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## RECONNECTING NO. ARIZONA PRONGHORN POPULATIONS BY JEFF GAGNON, WILDLIFE BIOLOGIST AZ GAME & FISH

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Ever since European settlers moved west into American pronghorn habitat, pronghorn populations have declined. Reasons for decline are numerous but you'll always find habitat loss and fragmentation near the top of the list. These pervasive factors are the result of human population growth and more directly the associated fences, roads, canals, railroads and housing developments. Pronghorn have a difficult time maneuvering fences alone and when combined with roads, particularly those with heavy traffic, fences can become an impermeable barrier.

In the winter of 1967, this combination of roads and fences played a key role in the expedited reduction of pronghorn herds in northern Arizona and their subsequent instability. Large scale die-offs occurred when pronghorn were unable to escape heavy snows due to these man-made barriers. In recent years Arizona Game and Fish Department (AGFD) has teamed with Arizona

Department of Transportation (ADOT) to seek innovative solutions to reconnect the pronghorn populations across northern Arizona.

In 2007, the Arizona Antelope Foundation and others helped AGFD begin to deploy pronghorn GPS collars north of Flagstaff along U.S. Highway 89. Over the next two years, over 121,000 GPS locations were collected from 37 pronghorn. This data was used to identify key locations for wildlife crossing recommendations, such as overpasses and underpasses, for incorporation into roadway upgrade efforts. However, given the time frame of future projects it was deemed essential to seek short-term solutions to ensure the persistence of Arizona's remaining pronghorn populations.

During the study it became apparent that pasture fences and fenced right-of-ways continued to be major barriers

*(Continued on page 9)*

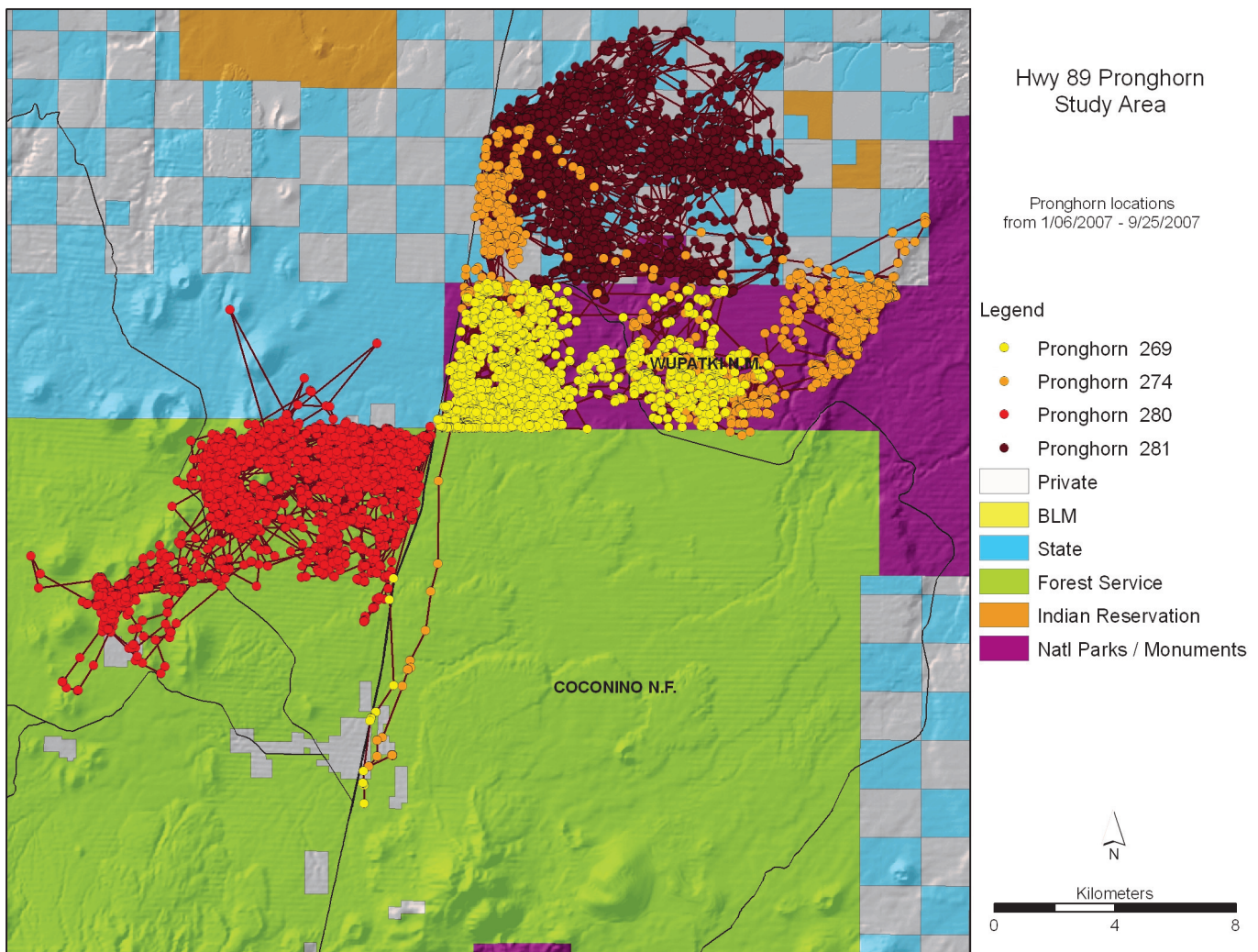


to pronghorn (fig. 1). Genetic analysis even showed differences among herds separated by major roadways in the area. AGFD, ADOT, Coconino National Forest, CO Bar Ranch and Wupatki National Monument worked together to modify fences using a data driven approach to identify locations in need of attention. Fence modifications entailed conversion to four-strands with a 16-20" high smooth bottom strand and "goat bars", sometimes with a full relocation or even complete removal. We collected fence inventories within the study area and documented completion of fence modifications.

AGFD then deployed another round of pronghorn collars to evaluate modification effectiveness. Stretches of fence with less than a 16" bottom gap were found to hinder pronghorn movements. Where that fence was modified to incorporate a bottom smooth wire placed 16" or higher, pronghorn ability to cross the fence in-

creased by over 100%. In an area cattle could not access, highway right-of-way fences were removed and pronghorn movements were recorded across a stretch of road that had not been documented for decades. An evaluation of the ability of pronghorn to cross roads and fences together supported providing a buffer area between roads and fences because of the increased the likelihood of successful pronghorn crossings.

These findings gave AGFD and their partners data driven support for potentially reconnecting pronghorn populations via fence modifications. Armed with this information, AGFD and their partners are working toward restoring connectivity among pronghorn populations north of I-40 in the Flagstaff area. This will entail several fence modification projects over the next few years and will be followed by a final round of GPS collaring to evaluate the overall effectiveness and the ability of pronghorn to interact between previously fragmented populations.



**Fig. 1 – GPS data demonstrating the barriers posed by fences and roads that led AGFD and stakeholders to begin fence modifications.**

# 2011 AAF CONSERVATION AWARD WINNERS

Each year the AAF chooses worthy groups and individuals to honor for their efforts to preserve and protect antelope in Arizona. The following were recognized at our annual banquet on February 18th.

## 2011 PROFESSIONAL OF THE YEAR DANA WARNECKE

Dana Warnecke, Habitat Specialist with the AZ Game & Fish Department has worked closely with the AAF over the years with our efforts to restore and preserve critical habitat. Dana has been involved with the pronghorn herd in Game Management Unit 21, and has coordinated numerous work projects with the AAF. Dana was instrumental in obtaining the Horseshoe Ranch area for the AZGFD. All the time that she was involved with the Horseshoe Ranch Dana worked hard to improve the management of the area for wildlife in general and pronghorn in particular. Thanks to her efforts almost all of the Horseshoe's fences are antelope friendly and the range conditions are the best they have been in years. This recognition as the AAF's Professional of the Year speaks to a person who exhibits the knowledge, energy and passion for the work they perform. Dana's knowledge of the area, issues, wildlife, habitat and opportunities were instrumental in the successes at the Horseshoe Ranch. Her tireless energy helped sustain the efforts, and her passion was instrumental in not only bringing about a successful acquisition of a special place, but over the last decade has helped the AZGFD and the AAF have a major impact on habitat enhancement for pronghorn! The AAF thanks you Dana!



## 2011 VOLUNTEER OF THE YEAR MARY KEEBLER



If you have ever been to any type of AAF function whether it be a banquet, work project, clinic or meeting you were sure to have met Mary Keebler. Mary is the type of individual that truly embodies the volunteer spirit. Her burning desire to assist in any way possible is truly something that must be admired. Mary has served as AAF treasurer for the last 4 years. You will also find her volunteering at youth events, cooking and cleaning at work projects and assisting at nearly every event AAF is involved with! She is truly an all-around team player. Mary has made a mark in the conservation arena not only with AAF but with many other organizations as well.

Together with her constant companion and faithful husband Bill, Mary is working fervently to assure that future generations have the opportunities to enjoy all that Arizona has to offer. You will look far and wide to find a person with such a truly unselfish servant spirit. It is for this and so many other reasons that we would like to honor Mary Keebler for her undying commitment to the Arizona Antelope Foundation.

## 2011 VOLUNTEER ORGANIZATION OF THE YEAR SOUTHEAST ARIZONA SPORTSMAN'S CLUB

The AAF has made a multi year commitment to Southeast Arizona and recently have been awarded a large grant for the South Eastern Arizona grasslands. Due to the vast scale of the project we are undertaking we must rely on the assistance of cooperative partners to complete the monumental task ahead of us. One such group who has stepped up to the task of assisting us to complete the required projects is the Southeastern Arizona Sportsman's Club.

SEAZSC has been a dedicated force in many of the work projects we have completed in their area over the course of many years. The group has always been willing to help in any way we have asked with both manpower, knowledge and supplies. Their willingness to improve wildlife and habitat makes them truly an organization that will forever leave a lasting legacy. The AAF would like to formally recognize and thank the SEAZSC for their continued efforts to help improve the wildlife and their habitat in our great state.



# AAF LOSES CHARTER MEMBER HARRY HUSSEY

BY DON JOHNSON, AAF PAST PRESIDENT

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The AZ Antelope Foundation lost one of their “pioneer” members when Harry Hussey passed away on December 23<sup>rd</sup>, 2011. Harry was among a handful of Pronghorn enthusiasts who tossed his \$100 into the pot back in 1992 when the organization was started. He worked tirelessly behind the scenes in the early years helping the organization get underway.

Harry was born in Muskegon, MI in December 1929 and moved to Arizona in 1968, with his wife, Lois, where he established his contracting business. Harry and Lois brought their 7 year old son, David, and the three of them fell in love with the Southwest, including Arizona and Sonora, Mexico.

Harry was involved in many of our early field projects and participated in some of our early hunter’s clinics by assisting with the field care and photography presentations. In recent years, Harry was often found conducting the “Hussey \$500” at our fundraising banquets – a tradition he “pioneered” many years ago at AZ Desert Bighorn Society banquets.

Harry’s son and wife hosted a celebration of Harry’s life in Carefree, AZ on January 8th which was attended by

over 200 friends and family.

In 1993, Harry drew a coveted unit 10 Antelope tag, and was rewarded with a fine buck scoring 86 6/8 Boone & Crockett points. Harry was accompanied on this hunt by his son, David, Jim Marquardt, Frank Tennant, and Don Johnson. In 2010, Harry again drew an Arizona Antelope tag in unit 5A. This hunt proved to be his last, but he was able to take a very symmetrical, handsome trophy in the company of many of his long time companions.

David Hussey has established a fund to purchase a new cook trailer for the AAF in Harry’s memory. Donations to the AAF for this purpose will be welcomed and appreciated.

You can make a donation online at our website (be sure to indicate the memorial in the special instructions section), or mail your payment to:

AZ Antelope Foundation  
Harry Hussey Memorial  
PO Box 12590  
Glendale, AZ 85318



# SONORAN PRONGHORN UPDATE



BY JILL BRIGHT AZ GAME & FISH  
FEBRUARY 2, 2012

## *Captive Breeding*

### Cabeza Prieta Captive Breeding Pen

We released the 5 bucks from the December boma capture that we moved to the holding pen on Organ Pipe Cactus National Monument (Orpi) on December 29. All five walked over the Growler Mountains, and back to the vicinity of the captive breeding pen in 5 days after their release. There they met and mingled with the pronghorn from the 2010 release that were still near the pen.

We did another boma capture in the south half of the pen on January 5 and 6, 2012. We caught 21 pronghorn in the boma, many of which we had caught previously in December. The pronghorn that had been caught in December just received vaccines, and were released back into the pen. We caught 6 females and 2 males to transport to the temporary 5-acre holding pen on Orpi.

Our original drug protocol was to give the pronghorn a dose of A3080 and Xylazine together in one shot, and then follow with Ketamine if their temperatures went up. However, this allowed temperatures to increase until the Ketamine was injected and took effect. During the January capture, ambient temperatures were 10+ degrees above normal, so we decided to give all three drugs in one injection to try to prevent the higher body temperatures in the pronghorn. We used this method with the first two females to be transported to Orpi. Body temperatures did stay low; however, one of the pronghorn stopped breathing and died on the way to the helicopter. We assumed this was a negative reaction to the drugs by this individual. We used this protocol on the next two females going to Orpi, halving the Ketamine dosage. However, one of those animals also stopped breathing and died. We successfully moved the other two pronghorn via helicopter, to the holding pen, but stopped for the day to reassess our methods. We decided that the problem was likely caused by giving the 3 drugs at once.

The next day, we went back to the original protocol, and gave the Ketamine dose after the original A3080/Xylazine injection. We successfully moved 4 more females and 2 bucks to the holding pen on Orpi, without any additional mortality. These 6 pronghorn were held in the holding pen for 2 weeks, and then released on January 20, 2012. Observers at the holding pen saw them head directly north, again over the Growler Mountains. We assumed they were headed back to the pen also, but we failed to detect them near the pen with telemetry.

During an aerial telemetry flight on January 15, we found 5 of the 6 in a group on South Tac, and one doe by herself on the Air Force range east of South Tac. We also found 4 of the 5 bucks from the first release from Orpi with most of the 2010 released animals on North Tac. The remaining buck from the first release was still in the vicinity of the captive breeding pen.

All the pronghorn handled and released back into the breeding pen are doing fine, as are all the other pronghorn in the pen. We have 10 adult females in the north half, and 12 in the south half, all which should be pregnant with twins.

*(Continued on page 13)*



Moving pronghorn to Orpi holding pen by helicopter.



Transporting into the Orpi holding pen

### Status of Pronghorn in Cabeza Pen

Jan 2012

NORTH HALF		SOUTH HALF	
Adult Females	10	Adult Females	12
Yearling Females ( <i>b</i> 2011)	4	Yearling Females ( <i>b</i> 2011)	6
Breeding Buck	1	Breeding Buck	1
Back-up Buck	1	Back-up Buck	1
Yearling Bucks ( <i>b</i> 2011)	4	Yearling Bucks ( <i>b</i> 2011)	8
Fawns (born 2012)		Fawns (born 2012)	
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>20</b>	<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>28</b>
<b>Total Pen</b>	<b>48</b>		

### Kofa Captive Breeding Pen

We've had two mortalities in the Kofa pen. One female died on January 1, 2012. This female did not become fully anesthetized despite numerous injections of drugs on the transport from the Cabeza pen to the Kofa pen, and consequently sustained a high body temperature for a significant amount of time. She did not recover well from the drugs at Kofa, and went downhill from there.

The second female died on January 12. She seemed to be fine after the capture and transport, and integrated well with the other pronghorn for 3 weeks. Then we started to notice she was not being seen with the group, and the monitors went and checked on her with telemetry. At that point, she didn't seem able to get up. We arranged for Anne Justice-Allen, the Department veterinarian, to come down and assess her condition the next day. However, we found her dead the next morning. Observations from the gross necropsy showed she had a ruptured bladder. She also only had one fetus, and it had been dead for awhile, possible evidence of other problems. Results from the diagnostic lab showed that she had a lesion and inflammation in the bladder which led to the rupture. The cause of the lesion and inflammation is unknown, but definitely not EHD or Bluetongue, and no known association with the drugs used. It's possible the trauma of the capture could have caused or aggravated it, but the link to the capture is low because of length of time involved between the capture and when symptoms manifested.

(Continued on page 14)

The remaining 11 pronghorn in the pen all appear to be recovered from the capture and adjusting well to the new pen. They have been feeding on native forage in the pen, using the alfalfa and have found the water sources. The 6 adult does all appear to be pregnant.

The well at the Kofa pen has been completed. With the help of volunteers from the Yuma Valley Rod and Gun Club, the irrigation lines have also been constructed. We are in the process of installing storage tanks and a pump. We are also in the process of getting the necessary EA checklist in place to start constructing the waters for pronghorn on Kofa.

*(Continued on page 15)*



*One of the first pronghorn on Kofa refuge.*

Status of Pronghorn in Kofa Pen

	Jan 2012
Adult Females	6
Yearling Females ( <i>b</i> 2011)	3
Breeding Buck	1
Back-up Buck	1
Fawns (born 2012)	
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>11</b>

**Released Pronghorn:** The 2010 released pronghorn are still ranging mostly in the vicinity of the pen. One buck released in 2010 and one buck released in 2009 have moved west and are with groups of wild pronghorn in the Growler Valley.

**Water Projects:** We have had over 2 inches of rain in the last several weeks, and all our waters are full or nearly full.

**Forage Enhancements:** All our forage enhancements have received ample rain recently, so we are not irrigating at any of them.

**Other Projects:** We completed the range-wide survey in Sonora, Mexico in the beginning of December. Our preliminary results are: we saw 167 pronghorn on the east side of Highway 8, leading to an estimate of 189 pronghorn; we saw 30 pronghorn in the Pinacate area, leading to an estimate of 52; total number seen

was 197, estimate for the entire population was 241.

This was the lowest number seen and the lowest population estimate for a December survey for the area east of Highway 8. The second lowest numbers were the 2002 survey with 197 seen and an estimate of 260. On our last survey in 2009 we saw 258 pronghorn and estimated 381; the highest estimate was 624 in 2004. The Pinacate estimate was also much lower than the last survey in 2009 (101), but similar to the 2007 estimate of 50. Overall, for the entire population, the estimate this year of 241 was also the lowest ever. The second lowest was in 2002 with 285 estimated; last survey in 2009, we estimated 404.

**Wild Pronghorn:** Most of pronghorn range is very green except the northern San Cristobal and northern Mohawk Valleys. On December 18-19, we captured 9 wild pronghorn (8 females and 1 male) and put either GPS or VHF collars on them to increase our monitoring ability of the wild herd.



*One of the first pronghorn on Kofa refuge.*

enhancements across the state. The various "critter" groups who are entrusted with the sale of the tags, painstakingly go through the proposals and determine their validity and if they are worthy of receiving these funds. Millions of dollars have been spent on habitat improvement projects across the state through the sale of these tags. This type of forward thinking approach, utilizing commercialization of the resource to generate funds in amounts that far exceed what it could generate under conventional means, is truly something that is to be commended. We are honored at the AAF to be harnessed to the task of overseeing the utilization of the funds generated from the sale of these antelope tags. We are excited at the prospect of next years HPC and how much habitat we can improve.

As you read through articles covering our work projects in editions of the *Pronghorn* as well on our website, you will see that our projects have begun to become somewhat larger in their scale. Although it may seem as though a project is still modifying a fence to make it antelope friendly, this is truly a piece of a much larger puzzle. The fence modification may be a needed item that opens a corridor to allow passage of antelope into a corridor that may have been historic habitat that was lost to them when the fence was constructed. This historic habitat may be part of an effort through an awarded grant to increase antelope habitat and numbers in an area with diminishing pronghorn numbers. The added habitat may allow for antelope that are losing the fight with urban sprawl to be relocated to this refound habitat. While this relocation may decrease numbers in one part of the state, it will help to maintain the overall numbers for the state. With the antelope now in a habitat that is not diminishing, the ultimate reward would be that this herd's numbers grow and in turn the state now has increased numbers.

Ultimately increased numbers will equate to more tags

that are available in the hunt draw process. The resounding comment I hear at public events is "I never get drawn for antelope that is why I don't get involved". Individuals must direct their actions now, if they are to reap benefits in the future. My question to you is "what are you doing now that will have a positive effect in the future"? We all must be willing to give back to a resource we wish to take advantage of.

Antelope is a state resource I am unwilling to see fade away. I want my kids and grandkids to have the ability to enjoy the Pronghorn. While I still have some influence over them, I want them to understand the meaning of giving back. This is why I am involved, when many times it is a struggle to juggle it all. I want to make a difference. There is an inner fulfillment that comes from knowing that you did what you could to give back, and this feeling is multiplied 10 fold when you are giving back to a resource you also utilize.

I would like to leave you with one final quote from the speech of President Johnson...

*"It would be a neglectful generation indeed, indifferent alike to the judgment of history and the command of principle, which failed to preserve and extend such a heritage for its descendants."*

As always, I welcome your ideas, comments and concerns. Feel free to contact me at: shanejstewart@gmail.com

I wish you safe travels, happy hunting and may you enjoy everything this beautiful state has to offer.

“LIBERTAS AD VAGOR”... FREEDOM TO ROAM”

Shane Stewart

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## MARK YOUR CALENDAR

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### AAF PROJECTS

May 29, 2012 - House Rock  
Summer 2012 - TBA Northern Arizona  
September 29, 2012 - San Rafael Area

### BOARD MEETING SCHEDULE

April 9  
May 14  
June 11

### OTHER EVENTS

June 16 Annual Hunter Clinic



# MEMBERSHIP

## LIFE MEMBERS

- |                                  |                                    |                                   |
|----------------------------------|------------------------------------|-----------------------------------|
| 1. Art Pearce, Phoenix           | 17. James Stewart, Phoenix         | 33. Bob Walker, Phoenix           |
| 2. Jim Mehen, Flagstaff          | 18. Terry Schupp, Tempe            | 34. Cookie Nicoson, Williams      |
| 3. Larry D. Adams, Bullhead City | 19. Dale Hislop, Calgary Canada    | 35. Tim Blank, Mesa               |
| 4. James K. McCasland,           | 20. Mick Rusing, Tucson            | 36. Jodi Stewart, Gilbert         |
| 5. Nina Gammons, Payette, ID     | 21. George Welsh, Kingman          | 37. Keith Joyner, Scottsdale      |
| 6. Nancy Lewis, Phoenix          | 22. Matthew Massey, Gilbert        | 38. David Hussey, Cave Creek      |
| 7. Pete Cimellaro, Phoenix       | 23. Don Parks, Peoria              | 39. Susan Pearce, Tucson          |
| 8. Jerry Weiers, Phoenix         | 24. Bill & Kerrie Jacoby, Chandler | 40. Glen Dickens, Tucson          |
| 9. Harry Carlson, Phoenix        | 25. Adam Geotl, Cottonwood         | 41. Will Garrison, Peoria         |
| 10. David Brown, Phoenix         | 26. Shane Stewart, Gilbert         | 42. Tom Waddell, New Mexico       |
| 11. Art Boswell, Tucson          | 27. Don Davidson, Mesa             | 43. Josiah Austin, Pearce         |
| 12. Charlie Kelly, Scottsdale    | 28. Terry Petko, Mesa              | 44. Connie Taylor, Mesa           |
| 13. Chrissy Weiers, Phoenix      | 29. Gary M. Johnson, Phoenix       | 45. Mark Boswell, Mesa            |
| 14. Al Sue, Scottsdale           | 30. Richard Guenzel, Laramie WY    | 46. Jessica R. Pearce, Scottsdale |
| 15. Mary Keebler, Happy Jack     | 31. Randy Cherington, Scottsdale   |                                   |
| 16. Bill Keebler, Happy Jack     | 32. Joe Del Re, Chandler           |                                   |

## SUSTAINING MEMBERS

James Bowen, Cave Creek	Pat McFall & Mary Love, Peoria	Walt Scrimgeour, Prescott
Bill Cole, Glendale	Jay Morrison, Peoria	Tice Supplee, Phoenix
William Cordasco, Flagstaff	Susan Morse, Jericho VT	Jim & Tracy Unmacht, Phoenix
Linda Dightmon, Peoria	Keith Newlon, Sierra Vista	Donna Voyles, Phoenix
Michael Domanico, Scottsdale	Richard Ockenfels, Mayer	David L. Wolf, Flagstaff
Randy Gaskill, Show Low	Gary Pearce, Mesa	

## FAMILY MEMBERS

Jim & Rita Ammons, Yuma	Dave & Sue Laird, Peoria	James & Joyce Sivley, Scottsdale
Ken & Kathy Cook, Casa Grande	Tom Mackin, Flagstaff	William & Jan Skibbe, Tucson
Brian & Dorothy Dolan, Tucson	Jeff & Cynthia Mason, Scottsdale	Barry Sopher, Tucson
Ron & Sharon Eichelberger, Alpine	Amy & Stephen Ostwinkle, Gilbert	Michael Tindle, Mesa
Joe & Chris Heilman, Surprise	Daniel Robinett, Catalina	
David Justice, Prescott	David & Debra Scott, Glendale	

## WELCOME NEW MEMBERS

Copper State Outfitters, Glendale	Brad Jones, Paradise Valley	Donna Voyles, Phoenix
Eddy Corona, Phoenix	Jessica R Pearce, Scottsdale	Scott Yeager, Gilbert

Congratulations to our newest Life Members Josiah Austin, Connie Taylor, Mark Boswell, and Jessica Pearce. You have helped to provide a permanent endowment for the welfare of Arizona's pronghorn. THANKS!



## SHORT SHOTS

### **VOLUNTEER OPPORTUNITY APRIL 28**

Although not sponsored by AAF, we are helping recruit volunteers for a project that will improve habitat on the grazing leases at Horseshoe Ranch, an area very important to antelope.

A Boy Scout has committed to doing a fence project for his Eagle Scout project on Saturday, April 28th. This fence is about 5 miles west of I-17 off the Bloody Basin Rd; it is on the Antelope Creek Ranch.

GPS location: 34 1.8' 40' N -112 11' 16.8' W

Volunteers will remove a 4-strand barbed wire fence which is not quite one mile long. The existing fence has mostly wooden posts and stays. The metal T-post that are there can stay and volunteers will pound in more t-posts. Then they will add the wire and metal stays to create a wildlife-friendly fence.

The existing fence is very old and has a few breaks in it; it is ineffective at keeping the cattle on the correct allotments. Close by are a few springs, a wildlife drinker, and a cattle tank, which attract wildlife. Replacing the old fence will benefit the wildlife by making it easier and safer for the animals to move back and forth to the water sources and cover areas.

If you are available to assist with this 1-day project, please RSVP to:

Troy Christensen

Access Program Coordinator AZ Game & Fish Dept.

office: 623-236-7492

cell: 602-319-0645

fax: 623-236-7327

tchristensen@azgfd.gov

### **CALLING ALL BIKERS!**

The AAF would like to conduct a bike run later this year or in 2013 and we need someone with some knowledge or experience to help guide the activity. We believe this would be a fun activity, would raise some additional funds for the Foundation, and might also expose a new group of folks to our cause. If you have some ideas on how to go about planning this type of activity, please let us know. Contact us at [info@azantelope.org](mailto:info@azantelope.org) or call Tracy at 602-361-6478.

### **ARIZONA BIG GAME SUPER RAFFLE**

The 2012 Super Raffle campaign is now in full swing! Tickets can be purchased online or by mail (see the ticket order form on page 19 of this publication. The drawing will take place July 14, 2012.

The AAF is a partnering organization for the AZ Big Game Super Raffle. What does this mean? All of the money raised by the sale of the **Antelope** raffle tickets goes directly to managing the species. The AAF has a voice on how that money is spent through participation in the Habitat Partnership Committee process. So purchasing tickets not only gives the buyer a great chance at the hunt of a lifetime, it also gives them yet another opportunity to support this great species!

Please visit the website for more information and to purchase your tickets.

[www.arizonabiggamesuperraffle.com](http://www.arizonabiggamesuperraffle.com)

### **FACEBOOK & TWITTER**

Your AAF has now entered the world of social media via Facebook and Twitter. We'd love to hear from you. Check it out at

<https://www.facebook.com/azantelope>

<http://twitter.com/azantelope>

### **SPORTSMEN'S BASH**

#### **FEATURING THE CHARLIE DANIELS BAND**

Arizona Sportsmen for Wildlife Conservation is pleased to announce their annual Bash will take place on June 21st at the Sheraton Wild Horse Pass Resort & Casino in Chandler. Enjoy dinner, auctions and a concert by the Charlie Daniels Band. Also joining us that evening will be country celebrity Storme Warren, and Governor Jan Brewer. This is an event you won't want to miss! Visit their website for more information or to make reservations.

[www.azsfdc.org](http://www.azsfdc.org)

**[WWW.AZANTELOPE.ORG](http://WWW.AZANTELOPE.ORG)**