

PRONGHORN

2nd Quarter 2012
Volume 18 Number 2



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.

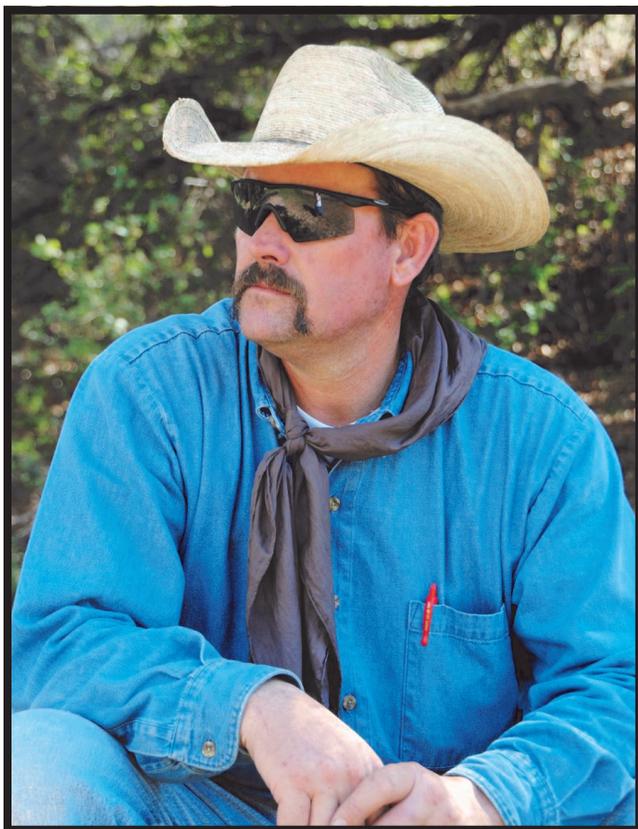


ON OUR COVER

We thank Past President Bill Keebler for sharing this photo taken on our most recent habitat project. Read more about this project on page 7.

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.

PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE



We need to set our sights on recruiting new hunters — to conserve outdoor America and benefit the economy. I am sure you have heard this before, but it is as important as any project we undertake.

NATIONAL NUMBERS

The “National Survey of Fishing, Hunting, and Wildlife-Associated Recreation,” conducted by the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service in conjunction with the U.S. Census Bureau to quantify participation in wildlife-based recreation and its economic impact, is one of the most comprehensive surveys of hunting in the United States. Federal and state government agencies and private organizations use this information to look for trends among hunters, anglers, and wildlife watchers. What they’ve seen is a downward trend in the number of people who hunt.

According to the 2006 “National Survey,” about 12.5 million U.S. residents age 16 and older hunt. Just 15 years ago, that number was 14.1 million people. Of greater concern is a significant drop in the overall percentage of Americans who hunt. In 1955, 10 percent of the U.S. population age 16 and older hunted; by 2006, that number was just 5 percent.

Many factors have contributed to the decline in hunting.

Urban Living: People living in urban areas are far less likely to take up hunting than their country counterparts. With more Americans moving to urban areas, the pool of potential hunters is shrinking. The explosion of urban and suburban development has also taken away lands that can be hunted and puts more distance between urban dwellers and lands they can hunt. This distance means that hunters may be less familiar with nearby hunting landscapes and therefore less likely to hunt there.

Access to public lands can also be a problem. A Colorado study by Responsive Management, a natural resources research firm, found that 32 percent of people who hunted on federal public lands had problems accessing those lands. The most common complaint was private land that blocked access to public lands. Even finding information about public places to hunt can be difficult.

Aging Population: Young adults (25 and under) are more likely to hunt than older adults, according to the “National Survey.” However, America is aging. The Census Bureau reports that between 1970 and 2006, the median age of Americans increased from 28 years old to 36.4 years old. This age increase tracks with a decrease in active hunters.

Inactive hunters (those who have not hunted in two or more years) also tend to be older than active hunters. Research by Responsive Management found that only 10 percent of active hunters are 65 years old or older but 23 percent of inactive hunters fell into that age range. When hunters whose participation had declined over 5 years were asked why, 42 percent cited age/health — the top response.

Family Ties: Fewer adults hunting leads to fewer youth introduced to hunting. Responsive Management found that 92 percent of youth who had hunted in the previous year came from a hunting family. There are few other avenues to introduce youth to the sport. Likewise, adults are unlikely to engage in hunting without the help of family or friends.

In addition, hunters who have not been in the field in recent years cite lack of free time (40 percent), family obligations (35 percent), and work obligations (34 per-

(Continued on page 16)

FORT HUACHUCA FENCE PROJECT MARCH 24, 2012

BY GLEN DICKENS, AAF LIFE MEMBER, DIRECTOR AND SEAZ PROJECTS COORDINATOR



Another successful AAF project was completed by 47 adult and student volunteers in southeastern Arizona on March 24th 2012. We modified 1.4 miles of existing fence on the northwest corner of the base; first removing aging sheep fencing, digging out earth that had been graded onto the fence bottom and then modified to 4 strands by removing the bottom, barbed-wire strand and replacing with smooth-wire. This effort is located in proximity to a previously funded AAF and ADA brush treatment project and adjacent and east of the Audubon Research Ranch where extensive fence removal was completed by the AAF in 2001.

This travel corridor project will help ensure that 19 pronghorn now using the Babocomari/Audubon ranges have access to the west range of Fort Huachuca. It will also facilitate the movement of a planned 2013 supplemental release of 30 Pronghorn into the Babocomari west pasture throughout the Babocomari/Audubon/Fort Huachuca grasslands complex. It plays a part in completing the critical southeastern portion of the overall Santa Cruz Plains pronghorn corridor improvement project.

This effort benefits the National Fish and Wildlife Foundation grant in that all labor hours, materials and mileage will be used to match the AAF's recently awarded \$230K 3-year grant for our "*Southeastern Arizona Grasslands Pronghorn Initiative*". The grant has a goal of improving up to 100,000 acres of "Pronghorn habitat connectivity"; the results of this project improved pronghorn connectivity on 4,000 acres of occupied habitat and 8,000 acres of unoccupied habitat on the west range of Fort Huachuca.

Three different youth groups assisted, one the Tombstone High School Agriculture class, the Tucson 4-H Range Riders and the U of A Student Wildlife Chapter. We will feature articles in future issues about their respective involvement in the Foundations Southeastern Grasslands Pronghorn Initiative.

Camp was located at the historic Rose Tree corals and stone bunkhouse near Elgin and the weather was breezy. A delicious steak dinner was served on Saturday night with the sides provided by Mary and Bill Keebler and they surprised everyone by hosting a Sun-

(Continued on page 5)



day morning breakfast as well, thanks Mary and Bill!

Thanks go out to several groups of folks that contributed to this successful project:

-The Boswell's Art, Mark and Samuel.

-Representing the AAF Board: Art of course, Mary Keebler, Connie Taylor, and yours truly.

-Other AAF members and volunteers: Bill Keebler, Joe Bill Pickrell, Richard Ockenfels, Betty Dickens, John Millican, Dave Cruce, Warren Adams, Ray Emmerich Ken and Kathy Cook, Terry Schupp, Ron Yee, Rene Dube, Clay Hernandez, Dan Gapp, Dale Maas, Pat McFall, Jim Littlejohn, Cliff Nystrom, Romaldo Lopez, David Johnson, Reece and Caden Norman and Courtney Fulk

-UA: Cole Talboom, Melissa Schuster

-Range Riders: Netzin Steklis, Drete Steklis, Wolf Steklis, Amber Dargenio, Caitlin Kelly, Logan McKenna and Emily Washburne

-Tombstone High: Emily Bertelsen teacher, Ernie Huerta, Dalton Libby, Alicia Allen and Jennifer Williams

-Fort Huachuca: Sheridan Stone

-Game & Fish personnel: Troy Christensen, Brad Fulk, Matt Braun and Ken Petzlin

Project photos by Richard Ockenfels

ARE YOU HUNTING ANTELOPE THIS FALL?

TEN COMMANDMENTS FOR BETTER ANTELOPE HUNTING

1. Be properly licensed and know the boundaries of the area in which you have a permit to hunt.
2. Be properly armed with a legal antelope hunting rifle and know its capabilities.
3. Have your rifle sighted in and shoot at least one box of shells at targets at ranges from 100 to 500 yards.
4. Know what a legal antelope looks like: A buck has horns longer than its ears, a black stripe under its ear.
5. Know the vital parts, or the killing shots you have to make to make it a clean, sportsmanlike kill.
6. Be aware that you are a guest of Mother Nature and conduct yourself above the reproach of your own conscience.
7. Close all gates through which you pass, unless they are laid open back against the fence.
8. Respect the need of domestic stock and wildlife for water and make your camps well back from waterholes.
9. Remember, you are entitled to take one buck antelope if you are licensed, all others belong to fellow sportsmen.
10. Be a sportsman - remember you pass this way but once, leave a trail others will like to follow.

HAPPY HUNTING!

Send us your photos and stories to consider for publication in a future issue. Only tasteful photos with all blood removed will be accepted at info@azantelope.org

HOW FRIENDS STAY FRIENDS ON A BOAT TRIP: 5 STEPS TO SUCCESS

BY MARSHA PETRIE SUE

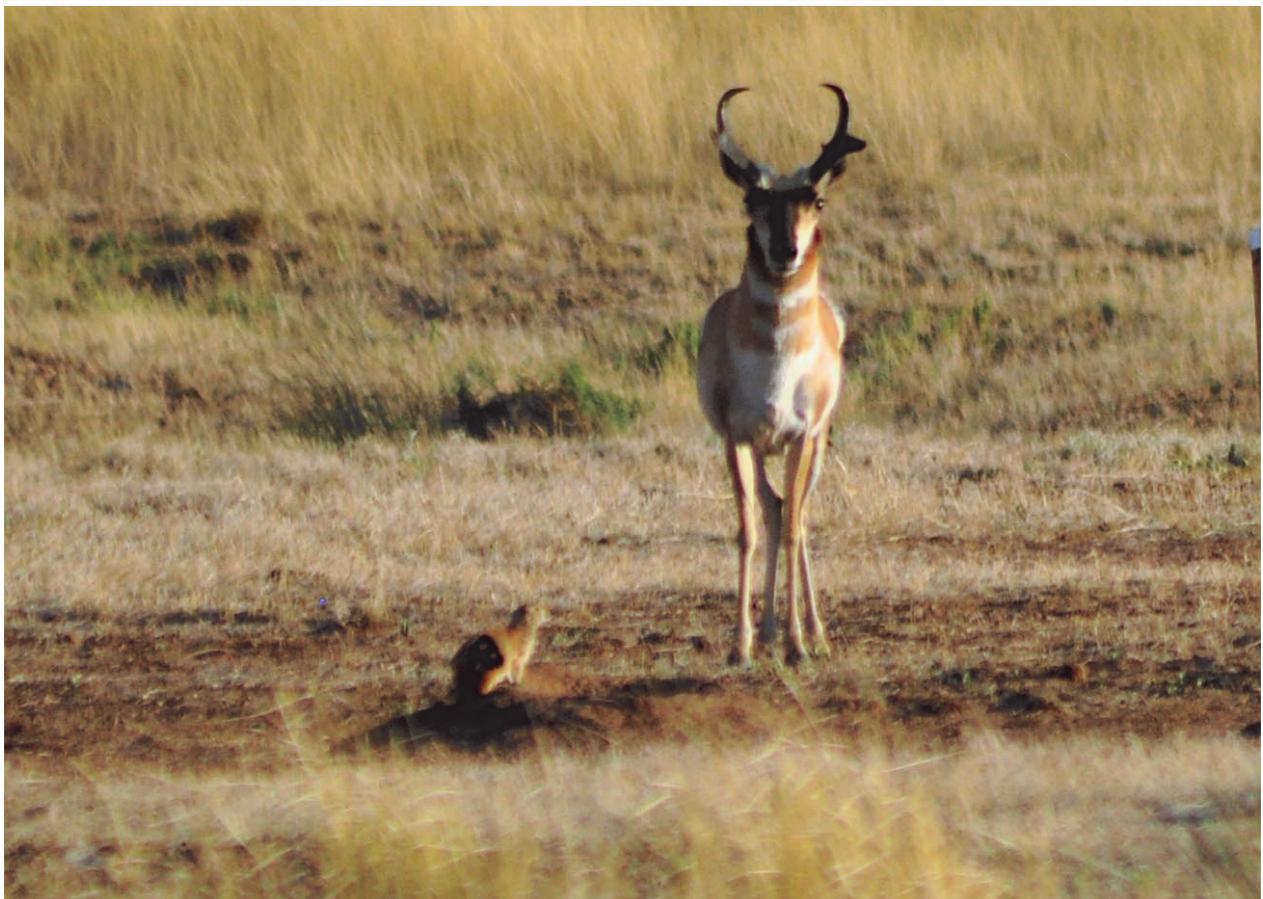
The 2011 AZ Game and Fish Wildlife for Tomorrow Banquet provided the springboard for twelve Antelope Foundation members to successfully bid and win a Lake Powell House boat trip. Starting with a 5 step plan designed by the soon to be happy house boaters seemed prudent.

1. Have a planning meeting
2. Draw for sleeping quarters
3. Design a menu and food
4. Decide what gear to bring
5. Format the adult beverages needed

And the secret number six was to personally decide to stay positive and have fun no matter what!



(Continued on page 7)



For those new to our publication, the AAF is involved in a long term grasslands restoration project in SE Arizona and the black-tailed prairie dog plays an important role in long-term grassland maintenance. This photo was taken by Sara Hale, who is involved in the prairie dog monitoring program. AAF Director Glen Dickens: “In 1984 neither of these species was present on the Las Cienegas. While this scene is normal in northern Arizona it’s a real rarity in SE Arizona with just 15 acres of blacktailed prairie dogs in 3 colonies.”

(How Friends Stay Friends cont. from page 6)

The group included:

- Jim McCasland, Past President, Life Member & Current Board Director and his wife Debbie
- Pete Cimellaro, Past President & Life Member and his wife Cathy
- Jim Unmacht, Past President & Sustaining Member
- Tracy Unmacht, Pronghorn Editor
- Bill Keebler, Past President & Life Member
- Mary Keebler, Treasurer & Life Member
- Al Sue, Director & Life Member and wife Marsha
- Shane Stewart, Current President & Life Member
- Jodi Stewart, Life Member

The Stewarts offered to bring their beautiful boat. Jim McCasland and Jim Unmacht chimed in and offered up their bass boats, too.

Arriving the evening before, the soon to become boating buddies, arrived in Page and dined at The Dam Bar and Grill. Early the next morning the troop headed for the marina and began the daunting effort of loading all the gear onto the 70' Silver Millennium luxurious houseboat. Thankfully the 'helpers' from the marina packed up the trailered golf carts and hauled many loads of 'stuff' to our floating paradise.

The planning meeting paid off - sort of. Way too much food was unpacked so there was never the thought of starving. The variety and excellence of the

meals would have pleased any gourmet's palate!

With a limit of over 200 smallmouth bass and the prospect of many poles in the water we knew one of the feasts would be a fish fry, with hush puppies, french fries and coleslaw completing another incredible meal. Layer on a dose of perfect weather for a perfect holiday week!

The only issue seemed to be running low on water and we did not want to retire to the home marina only to be remembered as the dirty dozen. The plan did include coming closer to the Antelope Marina the evening before our week ended. So departing from our anchored bay, we stopped by Dangling Rope Marina, filled our empty water tanks, refilled the ice chests, and most enjoyed some ice cream. Showers were had by all by the end of the day!

All equipment seemed to work well, except for Unmacht's skiff named the S.S. Kerp. She decided to die just as the troop started back to the marina. With a little help from their friends, and the Lake Powell rescue boats, everyone arrived safe and sound.

So here is the lesson: when attending banquets bid often with friends and win. Supporting these great conservation groups should be on everyone's agenda.

Help the Antelope herds and throw in a bunch of fun!

HOUSE ROCK FENCE REMOVAL PROJECT MAY 19, 2012

BY GLEN DICKENS, AAF LIFE MEMBER, DIRECTOR AND SEAZ PROJECTS COORDINATOR

This project brought 40 adult volunteers to House Rock Valley on the Kane Ranch USFS/BLM allotments' between the Buffalo and North Canyon pastures in northeast Arizona, east of the Kaibab Plateau and south of the Paria Plateau/Vermillion Cliffs. We removed over 700 wooden posts and 3.4 miles of 4 strand existing fence. We rolled up and hauled 14 miles of barbed wire back to Phoenix weighing some 4,680 pounds which was recycled by our President Shane and son Cade Stewart netting the Foundation \$538 for our operating fund. Our thanks goes to the Grand Canyon

Trust our hosts for that donation!

This project was sponsored and hosted by the Grand Canyon Trust (see related article on page 10), the allottees and owners of the Kane Ranch and its 400,000 acres of leased public lands. In addition the Arizona Wildlife Federation used the weekend to not only pitch in to assist its affiliate organization with the fence removal but to hold its quarterly Board meeting prior to Saturday night's dinner. This effort also benefited the Grand Canyon Trust in using all the labor

(Continued on page 8)

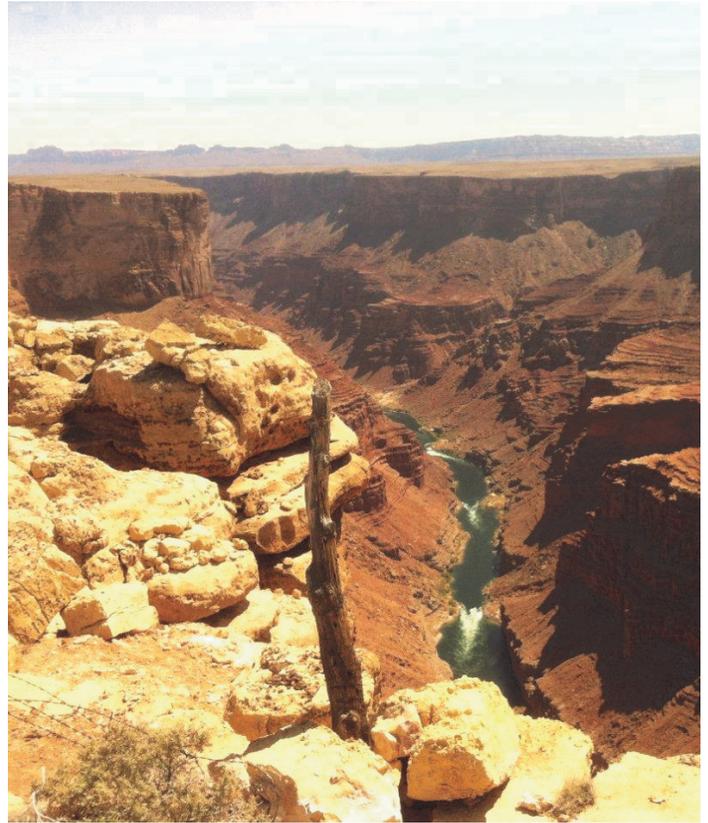
(House Rock Project cont. from page 7)

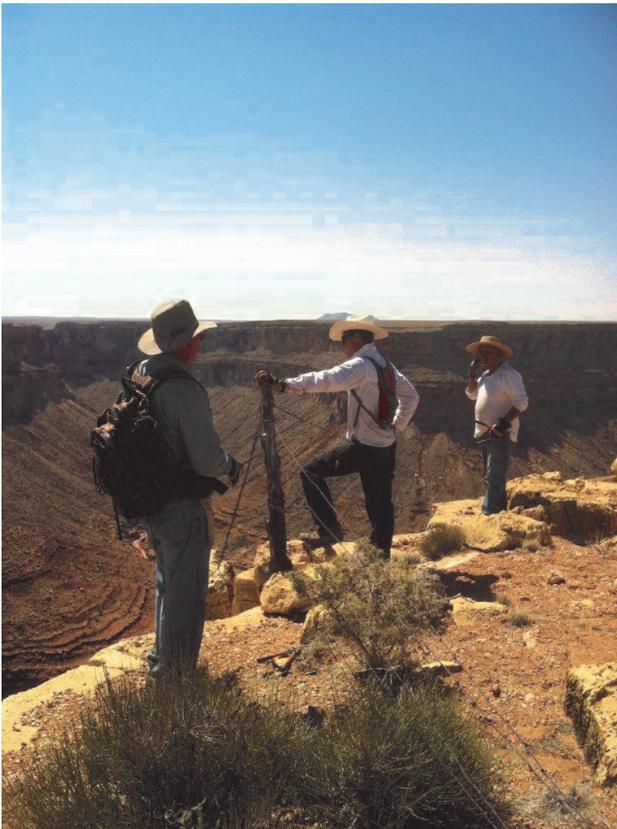
hours, materials and mileage for match to ongoing grants.

This 3.4 mile fence modification effort was an integral part of an implementation plan by the Grand Canyon Trust to modify or remove some 14 total miles of fence in key pronghorn habitat in Houserock Valley. During the project weekend multiple pronghorn sightings were made when commuting the 15 miles east from Kane Ranch to the project site. This project had a bonus as well in that the easterly fence line literally dead ended on the edge of Grand Canyon and one could look down 5,000 feet to see the Colorado River and rafters going downstream. Everyone enjoyed the spectacular views!

Camp was located at the historic and rebuilt Kane Ranch Headquarters at the base of the east side of the Kaibab Plateau. The weather cooperated by being clear with cool evenings and day time temperatures in the low 80's. Breakfast, lunch and dinner was hosted and cooked by Kate Watters the Grand Canyon Trust Volunteer Manager and after feeding dinner to every-

(Continued on page 10)





Project photos by Kate Watters, Andrew Belus, Tice Supplee and Bill Keebler

(House Rock Project cont. from page 8)

one she serenaded us with her guitar and Emily Lou Harris voice. Sunday's breakfast was hosted by Bill and Mary Keebler, thanks to you both for the biscuits', gravy and fruit.

Thanks go out to several groups of folks that contributed to this successful project:

-Representing the AAF Board: Shane Stewart, Al Sue, Mary Keebler, Connie Taylor, Tice Supplee and yours truly.

-Other AAF members and volunteers: Bill Keebler, Joe Bill Pickrell, Dave Laird, Mark Boswell, Betty Dickens, Dale Maas, Terry Schupp, Marsha Sue, Cade Stewart,

Steve West and Kent Smith.

-Arizona Wildlife Federation: Tom Mackin, Jerry Thorson, Valerie Morrill, Peter Chapman, Ben Alteneader, Jodi Latimer, Loyd Barnett, Duane Nelson, Margaret Mackin and Mike Matthiesen.

-Grand Canyon Trust and local volunteers: Kate Watters, Blain Bickford, Charles Goodrich, Maggie Sagher and Andrew Belus

-Game & Fish personnel: Troy Christensen, Will Lemons Tom McCall, Chris Hadley, Carrie King, Brian Wakeling, Brad Fulk, and Ken Petzlin.

Thanks everyone for your long drives and work efforts!

WORKING TOGETHER: AAF & GRAND CANYON TRUST

BY KATE WATERS

The mission of the Grand Canyon Trust is to protect and restore the Colorado Plateau -- its spectacular landscapes, flowing rivers, clean air, diversity of plants and animals, and areas of beauty and solitude. And that is where AAF stepped in -- the 'animals' particularly the Antelope! Include the Arizona Wildlife Federation and 40+ volunteers and you have the outcome of three plus miles of old fence removed, including the rolling up of the wire and removal of fence posts.

The backdrop of the Buffalo and North Canyon Pastures in House Rock Valley on the Kane Ranch was breathtaking and it is located east of the Kaibab Plateau and south of the Paria Plateau/Vermillion Cliffs, Kane Ranch. This project will help ensure that pronghorn have unimpeded seasonal access to the eastern slope of the Plateau. It will assist towards completion the Grand Canyon Trusts overall pronghorn fence modification/removal plan in the House Rock Valley. The population has declined to about 40 animals from over 1000.

This all took place from the Kane Ranch headquarters building which was established southwest of the Vermillion Cliffs in Marble Canyon in 1877. With a rich history, the ranch offered the basic facilities that were welcomed by campers including a kitchen, running water, comfortable eating rooms and new outhouses. This is more than the AAF volunteers typically have on these projects. The beautiful ranch grounds left plenty of room for the campers and worker bees.

The weather cooperated and provided constant sunshine and of course, cool winds. The volunteers were in two teams and one took the 'west' route and the other

headed east. The goal was to remove over three miles of four strand barbed wire fence, roll it, and bring it back to base camp. This was achieved in one day and the remainder was a well-worked group of volunteers! Thanks to Kate Waters, director of the Trust's volunteer program, we were well fed for all our meals.

The benefit for AAF was the money made from selling the wire to a scrap dealer. Shane Stewart and his son trailered the 4280 pounds of barbed wire back to Phoenix and made AAF \$538! Removing fence posts was also accomplished, but not all were pulled from the ground. Raptors use these upright perches as part of their food chain participation.

Don't miss the next project. They are just too much fun and the outcome for the conservation of the Pronghorn continues to be wonderful.



THE EPIC JOURNEY OF SONORAN PRONGHORN 851

FROM AZ GAME & FISH WILDLIFE NEWS

Buck 851 was born a few years back, just south of Ajo. Not long ago, the Sonoran pronghorn antelope was nearly extinct. Buck 851 was born in a captive breeding program pen that has seen tremendous success in restoring the Sonoran pronghorn population.

When 851 was two years old, he was released as part of an Endangered Species recovery plan effort. He was fitted with a collar equipped with GPS that allowed Arizona Game and Fish Department biologists to keep track of his location on a daily basis. He also sported an ear tag.

Young pronghorn bucks like 851 are released into the wild in an effort to lessen the chance of youngsters sustaining jousting injuries during mating season with the dominant buck in the pen, sort of like teenagers being kicked out of the house when they turn 18.

This young buck stayed in the vicinity of the captive rearing pens for more than a month after he was released. When 851 finally moved out to explore the world, he and another young buck became travelling buddies and wandered north to Gila Bend, crossing the Crater Mountains.

This is not typical behavior for these pronghorn. Buck 851 and his travelling companion crossed back and forth over State Route 85 several times...a dangerous highway for vehicles and an even more treacherous place for wildlife. Buck 851 and the other male stayed on the move, roaming around looking for their place in the world.

Eventually 851's pal took off and joined a pronghorn herd on the Barry M. Goldwater Air Force Range, leaving the lonely buck to wander solo in search of a herd of his own. And wander he did.

Buck 851 went west, hoofing through about 40 miles of tough desert terrain along Interstate 8 towards Yuma. Still alone, he turned to the south, and crossed

the border into Mexico.

Arizona Game and Fish staff, working together with officials in the State of Sonora, actually spotted 851 on a cooperative aerial survey with Mexico. After seeing the collar, the biologists were able to connect, download and update the GPS data.

The GPS tracking information filled in many details of 851's travels. On repeated occasions he crossed the U.S.-Mexico Border Fence, which sports a substantial vehicle barrier, as well as Mexico Highway 2, which is known for its dangerous, heavy traffic. And for some reason, perhaps to gain a better vantage point where he could look for his own kind, 851 trekked up the brutally steep, rocky volcano Penacote Peak in Mexico.

As planned, 851's collar fell off 18 months after he began his epic journey near Ajo. The GPS collars are designed to come off after a year and a half, when a buck's growth brings greater girth to the neck and swelling when in the rut.

Although 851 is no longer transmitting daily GPS tweets, he has been spotted several times hanging out with a band of does west of Mexico Highway 8 about 30 miles north of Puerto Penasco (Rocky Point). It was a long journey, but at this point, it seems 851 has found a herd of his own and a place to call home. Altogether, 851 traveled more than 200 miles alone in three months and crossed the Mexican border. Unique behavior and an epic journey that seems to have come to a happy ending.

The Sonoran pronghorn program is a joint effort between the Arizona Game and Fish Department and the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service. The U.S. Border Patrol, Homeland Security, and the U.S. Air Force also continue to be good partners to the program.

MARK YOUR CALENDAR

AAF PROJECTS

September 29, 2012 - San Bernadino Valley

BOARD MEETING SCHEDULE

July 9 (telephonic)
August 13 (telephonic)
September 10

OTHER EVENTS OF INTEREST

July 14 Outdoor Experience 4 All Banquet
July 14 AZ Big Game Super Raffle Drawing
August 25 WFT Outdoor Hall of Fame Banquet
September 29-30 Antelope Jackrabbit Surveys



SONORAN PRONGHORN UPDATE



BY JILL BRIGHT AZ GAME & FISH
FEBRUARY 2, 2012

Captive Breeding:

Cabeza Prieta Captive Breeding Pen

All the pronghorn in the pen are doing well. All the adult females have given birth in the pen. We have 15 fawns in the south half; 8 males, 6 females and one unknown. We have 13 fawns in the north (8 males and 5 females).

Status of Pronghorn in Cabeza Pen

May 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 (Blue)	1	Breeding Buck	0
Back-up Buck	1	Back-up Buck (Yellow 3)	1
Yearling Bucks (<i>b</i> 2011)	4	Yearling Bucks (<i>b</i> 2011)	8
Fawns (born 2012)	13	Fawns (born 2012)	15
TOTAL	33	TOTAL	42
Total Pen		75	

Kofa Captive Breeding Pen

All the pronghorn in the Kofa pen are well. All the adult females have given birth. We have 8 fawns (4 male, 4 female) in Kofa pen. One doe was caught on camera with 2 new-born fawns one day, and then observed by the pen monitor giving birth to one more fawn the next day. However, only 2 of the 3 fawns were seen later, so we assume she lost one of the triplets.

Status of Pronghorn in Kofa Pen

	May 2012
Adult Females	6
Yearling Females (<i>b</i> 2011)	3
Breeding Buck	1
Back-up Buck	1
Fawns (born 2012)	8
TOTAL	19

(Continued on page 13)

(Sonoran Pronghorn Report cont. from page 12)

We detected with the aid of a camera trap, a bobcat in the pen on several occasions in the vicinity of the drinker. We have since increased the power on the electric fence, and added extra fence to the top of the gates, where we suspect the cat was able to climb over. To date, we have not documented predation of pronghorn by bobcat.

Released Pronghorn

The pronghorn released last winter (December 2011/January 2012) have integrated with wild pronghorn and are using the Growler Valley and Child's Valley. Two bucks from that release have come back to the pen in the last few days and are associating with previously released bucks that have remained around the pen.

The pronghorn released in December 2010 are still mostly using the Child's Valley area north of the pen, and have not joined wild pronghorn. On a recent telemetry flight, we observed 8 fawns with females released from the pen in Child's Valley.

Water Projects: With the help of the Yuma Valley Rod and Gun Club, we constructed the second water on Kofa National Wildlife Refuge in anticipation of pronghorn being released into the wild.

Forage Enhancements: Personnel have been irrigating at Charlie Bell forage plot. Several wild pronghorn, including 3 fawns have been observed using the plot. Granite Mountain forage plot is still inoperable with a broken pump in the well, and Devil's Hills plot needs repairs to the pump manifold before it can be irrigated.

Other Projects: Nothing new to report

Wild Pronghorn: On the last telemetry flight (May 6), we observed 13 fawns with the radio collared groups. However, we have been having difficulty getting sufficient clearance time on the Air Force Range to locate all the collared pronghorn, so some females that may also have fawns were not observed on the last several flights. One doe, released from the pen in January 2012, has moved into the Valley of the Ajo on Organ Pipe Cactus National Monument. This area was occupied by pronghorn prior to the severe drought of 2002, but pronghorn have not been documented in that area since. She has given birth to at least one fawn in the Valley of the Ajo.



Gray Doe's new born fawns documented by camera trap within Kofa CBP.

AAF PRONGHORN AND FENCE STANDARDS PERMEABILITY WORKSHOP

BY GLEN DICKENS, AAF LIFE MEMBER, DIRECTOR AND SEAZ PROJECTS COORDINATOR

The Antelope Foundation hosted a Pronghorn and Fence Standards Permeability Workshop attended by 24 participants on Friday April 6, 2012 in Sonoita. The workshop provided agency personnel from the Arizona Game and Fish Department, State Land Department, ADOT, BLM Audubon, Fort Huachuca, U of A and local landowners/lessees the reasons for fence modifications and prioritization showing that such modifications do their job by interconnecting previously isolated sub-populations of Pronghorn. The presenter was Jeff Gagnon a Research Biologist with the Arizona Game and Fish Department who has worked on multiple statewide wildlife connectivity projects, including State Route 260 elk-vehicle collision mitigation efforts and the US Highway 93 desert bighorn sheep overpass project.

In this workshop Jeff gave details and results on a recently completed study on Pronghorn permeability associated with fence characteristics in northern Arizona. In the study they evaluated the effects of fences and fence characteristics on pronghorn connectivity and roadways/highways. They outfitted 54 pronghorn with GPS collars between January 2007 and December 2010, generating 179,500 locations. Fences within the study area were classified according to characteristics (height, wire type, condition, etc.) and modifications to create a time-sensitive dataset of fence classes. They tabulated crossing rates and evaluated the permeability for each fence class including a no-fence control line using ratios of crossing rates to availability. Temporal patterns of fence-crossing hotspots were evaluated with a focus on areas that underwent mitigation modifications during the study.

Pronghorn were found to cross the no-fence control lines twice as often as actual fences. There was a significantly higher proportion of crossings in fence sections with a bottom wire height of 16" or higher.

There were also significantly more crossings



Photo by Betty Dickens

than expected at sections of fence between 200m and 400m from the highway. There was an increase in crossings of the highway after right-of-way fencing was removed. These findings indicate that ensuring a minimum of 16" of clearance under the bottom wire, pulling fence lines back from the roadside, and removing them altogether where possible would help restore connectivity in the northern Arizona pronghorn metapopulation.

The workshop provided the necessary data and answers and demonstrated how fence modifications can be used to specifically benefit connectivity of Pronghorn herds in the Las Cienegas, Rose Tree, Babocomari and San Rafael area grasslands. The workshop was part of the educational component of the AAF's 5-year SE AZ Pronghorn Initiative and its National Fish and Wildlife Foundation 3-year \$230K Sky Island Grant to benefit Pronghorn habitat/connectivity and population recovery. After the presentation many participants attended a field review of fences that have been modified on upper Elgin Road to look at the fence standards that were presented in the workshop. The AAF thanks all of the participants for taking the time to attend and to share their questions and viewpoints.

SPECIAL TAG FUND PROJECT COMPLETION

FROM JOHN BACORN, AZGFD

The AAF chose Bonita Ranch Grasslands Restoration Phase 1 as a project to be funded with special tag funds through the HPC process. This project was completed in March of 2012. Individuals and agencies involved with the project included AGFD, Natural Resource Conservation Service (NRCS) and Mr. Jeff Homack (lessee/land owner).

A total of 320 acres of mesquite invaded desert grassland habitat was grubbed with an excavator and all carcasses were piled into piles which will be burned at a later date.

Besides the grubbing and piling of mesquites, included within the contract is that the area will be rested from grazing for two consecutive years during the growing season.

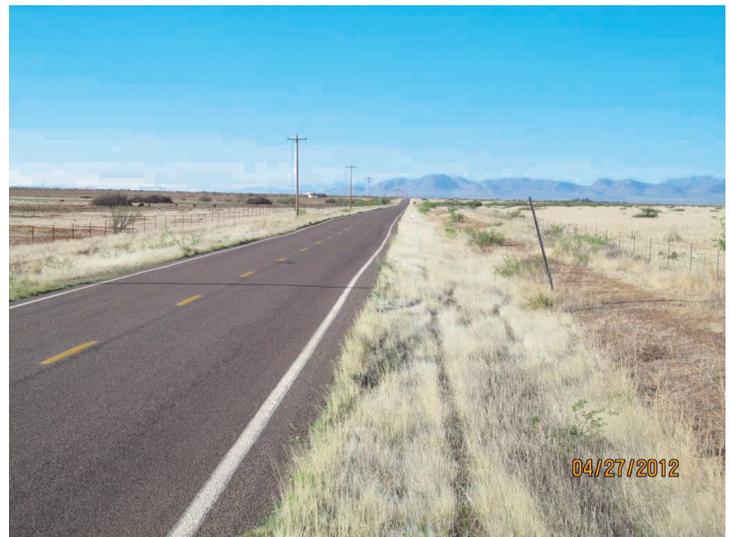
This project involved 320 acres of a 3000 acre pasture. A continuation of this project is planned and funded through NRCS for an additional 1100 acres to be grubbed this year (2012).

Specific grazing practices were outlined within the NRCS contract. NRCS personnel have the primary responsibility for monitoring compliance with the NRCS contract.

AGFD personnel will periodically visually monitor vegetation response from the practices. AGFD also annually surveys this area for pronghorn antelope and have initiated a Quail Call Survey to monitor any response of Scaled and Gambel quail to the practices.



Prior to Project Completion



Post Project Completion



Antelope sighted in the area after project completion



Post Project Completion

cent) as the top three reasons they were unable to hunt. These numbers, from a 2007 Responsive Management survey, are significantly higher than results from a decade earlier. In 1995, results of a Responsive Management survey showed these obstacles at much lower levels: lack of free time (26 percent), family obligations (18 percent), and work obligations (22 percent).

THE CONSERVATION CONNECTION

Hunting in America is not just an issue of how people spend their free time. It's about conservation – both the dollars and cents of it and the need to engage people in protecting our natural resources. Declines in hunting have a broad impact across the country.

Conservation Funding: State fish and wildlife agencies protect fish, wildlife, and plant populations and the habitats on which they depend – which also benefit the people who live in and visit each state. The majority of funding for state fish and wildlife agencies comes directly from hunters, anglers, and shooting sports enthusiasts. Every purchase of a box of ammunition or fishing tackle includes a fee (called an excise tax) that helps fund state fish and wildlife programs – almost \$750 million in 2011.

It was sportsmen who devised this “user pay” system and brought about the creation of the Federal Aid in Wildlife Restoration Act (also known as the Pittman-Robertson Act), which imposed an excise tax on hunting firearms and ammunition. Amendments later extended this tax to pistols, revolvers, and most archery equipment. Separate legislation, the Dingell-Johnson Act, created similar taxes on fishing equipment. License sales and excise taxes on hunting and fishing equipment account for more than 75 percent of the total funding for many state fish and wildlife agencies, even though most of the nation's wildlife is not hunted or fished. Without these funds, state agencies would effectively cease to operate, which would dramatically affect outdoor recreation opportunities and game and nongame wildlife and fisheries management.

Economics: Hunting, fishing, and other outdoor recreation have a broad impact on the U.S. economy. According to data collected by Responsive Management, hunters alone contribute more than \$22 billion to our economy each year through their purchases of items ranging from food and lodging to equipment and tour guides. Hunters also support almost 600,000 jobs across the country, generating salaries, wages, and income of more than \$20 billion every year. The money hunters spend also yields about \$4 billion in annual state and local

taxes and almost \$5 billion in federal tax revenue.

Wildlife Management: Restoration programs funded by sportsmen have helped numerous wildlife species recover across the country, including wild turkeys, wood ducks, pronghorn antelope, elk, and even white-tailed deer. License fees and excise taxes have been used to conserve millions of acres of land that support vital habitat for game and nongame species alike. These funds also support the work of wildlife biologists.

Sportsmen also help keep wildlife healthy by balancing wildlife populations with available habitat. Maintaining a population in balance with the wants and needs of the people in the state is a difficult task, and hunting is the only viable management option to achieve this goal.

Conservation: People protect the things they love. For hunters, anglers, and other people who enjoy the outdoors, that includes our natural resources. Not only do hunters see first-hand the conservation challenges facing the natural world, they are often the first to see problems as they start to occur and can alert the appropriate authorities to take action.

Sportsmen are more likely than non-sportsmen to support conservation organizations with donations of volunteer time and money. According to research by Responsive Management, the average hunter donates \$53 every year to conservation organizations to support their conservation work, compared with \$32 per year donated by the average U.S. resident.

Hunters also contribute their time and talents to on-the-ground conservation projects organized by groups such as the Arizona Antelope Foundation. These volunteers improve wildlife habitat and waterways; raise and stock game birds and fish; and volunteer as education, safety, and skills instructors.

RECRUITING SUCCESS

The drop in hunting participation mirrors a national drop in outdoor recreation activities. Recruiting new hunters or bringing an inactive hunter back to the sport can not only help conservation and wildlife management but also get people active and healthy.

Share the Experience: Having friends and family who hunt or support hunting is an important component of recruiting new hunters. The development of an identity as a hunter is necessary for long-term commitment to the sport. That identity comes from time spent with like-minded family and friends who encourage hunting. Among active hunters, 86 percent said they had been

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invited to go hunting by a friend, and 28 percent subsequently increased their hunting participation. Sharing the experience helps keep fellow hunters active and is critical to recruiting new ones.

New hunters may initially be focused on results, but as a hunter gains more experience, the pursuit often becomes more important than the kill. The majority of people say they hunt as a recreational experience, to enjoy nature, or to spend time with family and friends, according to a recent Responsive Management survey, although nearly all hunters also eat the game they harvest.

Mentor Youth: People who are introduced to hunting as children (under the age of 16) have much greater enthusiasm for hunting as adults than someone introduced to the sport as an adult, according to Responsive Management survey results. More than half of active hunters surveyed said they had hunted at least once by age 12, and these hunters typically hunted more days per year than hunters who started later in life.

When youth were surveyed directly, 70 percent of those with mentors said they “like hunting a lot” compared with only 35 percent of youth who did not have mentors. In addition, 60 percent of mentored youth were “very interested in going hunting” (compared with 39 percent of non-mentored) and 73 percent had gone hunting in the past year (compared with 46 percent of non-mentored).

There is a trend among states to lower minimum age requirements and add special opportunities for young hunters to encourage participation, such as special licenses for mentored young hunters and youth-only hunt days.

Start Simple: Hunters who start with small game (such as rabbit, squirrel, or pheasant) or commonly hunted game (like predators or deer) are more likely to stick with hunting. Small game is particularly important when introducing youth to hunting, but the same holds true for adults – more challenging game can frustrate new hunters and cause them to lose interest.

Make It a Family Affair: Another factor in building a life-long love of hunting is family involvement. Although hunting with friends encourages hunters to stay engaged, research shows that hunting with a family member early on leads to better retention rates for new hunters. For example, a national study of youth ages 8 through 18 found that 92 percent of active youth hunters came from a hunting family. Hunters who were mentored specifically by their fathers are much more enthu-

siastic about hunting than hunters mentored by a different adult in their lives. In addition, recruiting rates for young hunters are higher in households in which both parents hunt. So get the whole family involved!

Sign Up Seniors: “Baby boomers” are more physically active than seniors in previous generations, so they may be more interested in starting or renewing hunting activities. In addition, adults who stopped hunting due to advanced age or health concerns can still help mentor new hunters – and may regain their own passion for hunting in the process. Encourage youth (and people new to the sport) to ask the adults in their lives to take them hunting. Research shows that the top reason a mentor took somebody hunting was that the person asked.

Look for Locavores: The organic and locavore (people who strive to eat foods grown or produced locally) movements present an opportunity to engage new hunters. People across the country are increasingly concerned about where their food comes from and how it is processed. Until the industrial food movement, people hunted for and ate foods that are no longer accessible to us through our regular food supply. Most people don't think about all the animal parts we no longer eat – amazing food that used to be served to kings and queens, and now we would never even think about eating it.

SIDEBAR: HUNTING FOR NEW HUNTERS

I understand the connection between hunting and conservation. I also know that introducing young people to the outdoors and recruiting new hunters are important to future natural resource conservation. This is one of the reasons I volunteer and include my children in our activities as much as possible.

We're hoping to get these “new recruits” tuned into the role hunting has in management of wildlife populations. Don't promote trophy hunting or long range shooting. Put the emphasis on establishing a connection with the outdoors. When this connection is established, your outings will always be fulfilling, even if your tag isn't filled.

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

Shane Stewart



AAF PARTICIPATES IN RECENT WILDLIFE FAIRS

May & June are busy times for getting the word out about our organization. Richard Ockenfels attended the May 5th AZ Game & Fish Region 3 Fair in Kingman. Mary Keebler represented the AAF at the May 12th Payson Wildlife Fair, and Tice Supplee set up our display at the first annual Mormon Lake Lodge Outdoor Festival in June.



VOLUNTEER OPPORTUNITY

Volunteers are needed to do walking surveys for antelope jackrabbits on September 29 and September 30 in the Three Points area. If interested, please contact David Brown at bosco069@aol.com or 602-973-0591.

HARRY HUSSEY MEMORIAL FUND

We reported in our last issue the passing of Charter Member Harry Hussey and establishment of a memorial fund to purchase a new AAF cook trailer. For those of you who have attended work projects, you have probably seen the amount of equipment the AAF carts around. Thanks to Art & Mark Boswell, this equipment fits (barely) like an intricate puzzle into our existing trailer. So, we're sure you can appreciate the need to expand to accommodate all of our equipment and supplies.

The memorials have begun rolling in and your AAF Board is currently finalizing trailer specifications and obtaining quotes and will have a final fund-raising goal amount to report in our next issue. In the meantime, please consider making a donation in Harry's name and help purchase this much-needed upgrade!

AAF PURCHASES WIRE ROLLER FOR AZ GAME & FISH DEPARTMENT

On behalf of the Pinetop Region, I'd like to express a sincere thanks to the Arizona Antelope Foundation for purchasing a Fence Rolling machine for us. We've already rolled plenty of wire and have several more projects planned. Our Region has a good core of volunteers who have and will continue rolling up fences.

I sure appreciate all you guys do for Arizona's wildlife, and us (AGFD).

Bob Birkeland
Wildlife Manager Supervisor, AZ Game & Fish



MEMBERSHIP

LIFE MEMBERS

- | | | |
|----------------------------------|------------------------------------|-----------------------------------|
| 1. Art Pearce, Phoenix | 17. James Stewart, Phoenix | 33. Bob Walker, Phoenix |
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| 3. Larry D. Adams, Bullhead City | 19. Dale Hislop, Calgary Canada | 35. Tim Blank, Mesa |
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| 13. Chrissy Weiers, Phoenix | 29. Gary M. Johnson, Phoenix | 45. Mark Boswell, Mesa |
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Brad Bevard, New River	Dennis Person, Mesa	Mark Wright, Tucson
Brad Fulk, Herford	Barry Spiguzza, Rimrock	Daniel Zamora, El Mirage
Deen James, Mesa	John Stutts, Phoenix	

FINAL RENEWAL NOTICES HAVE BEEN MAILED. PLEASE RETURN YOURS TODAY, OR RENEW ONLINE AT WWW.AZANTELOPE.ORG THANKS FOR YOUR SUPPORT!

