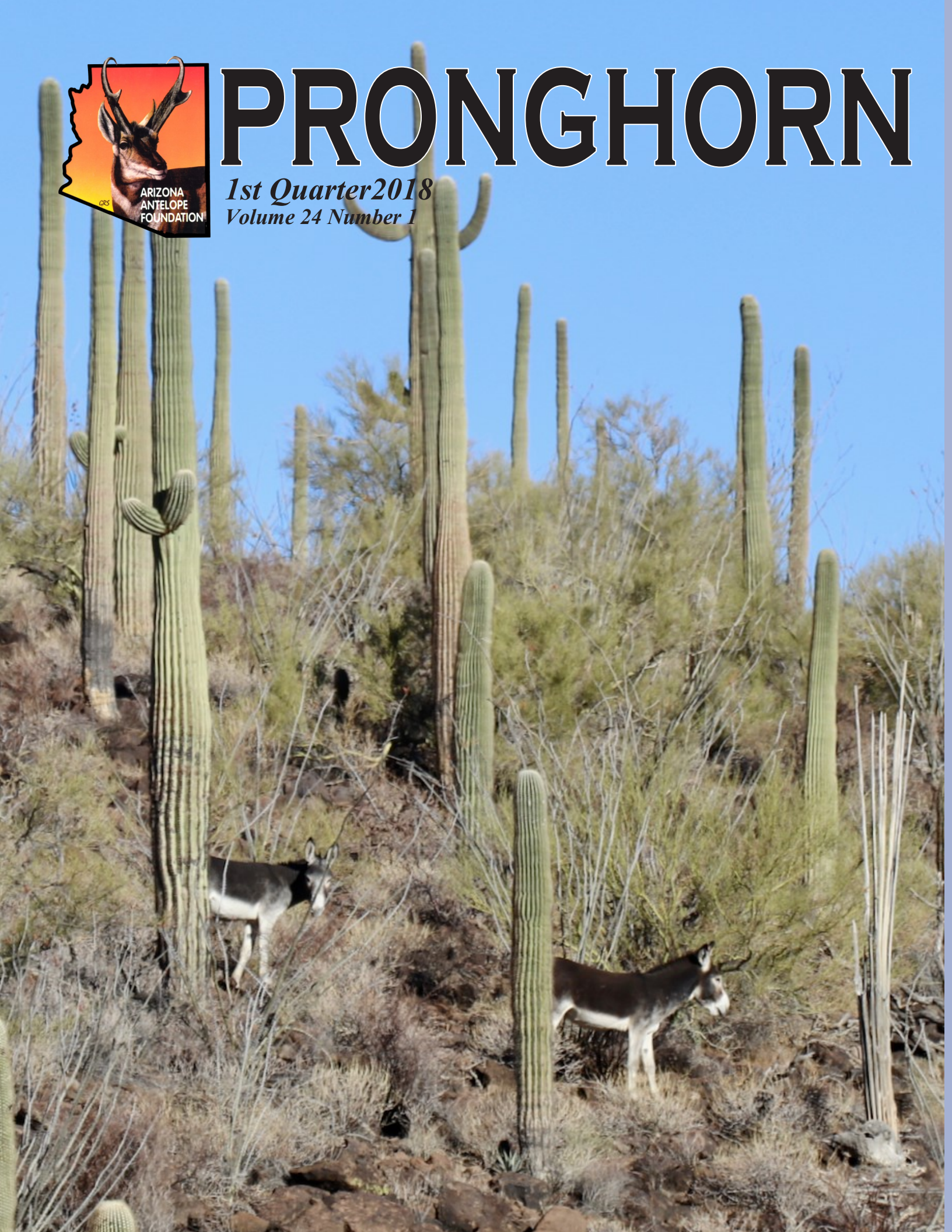




PRONGHORN

1st Quarter 2018
Volume 24 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
WHAT'S GOING ON IN AJO? IT IS
DEFINITELY OF INTEREST TO THE
LOCALS.
SEE PAGE 4....

PHOTO CREDIT TO BETTY DICKENS.

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:

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

PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

Welcome to the Spring 2018 Issue of the Pronghorn, the quarterly publication of the Arizona Antelope Foundation.

As mentioned in the prior issue, the 2018 Project season will be a strong one and will encompass nine months of the year. Already this year, we had a project down near Ajo for a fence modification around a waterhole for Sonoran Pronghorn to keep burros out while allowing access to Pronghorn, Bighorn Sheep, and Mule Deer. April 13-15, we had the final fence project in the Sonoita region. The fact that we think we have done for the most part all we can in this region is a testament to all the hard work that John McMillian and Glen Dickens have put in. All I can say is "Well Done, Guys!!"

The weekend of June 8th and 9th, we will have another project in the Greer Region near Big Lake. If you attended last year, we will be camping in the same location. This was such a FUN Project that you don't want to miss it! It is a chance to get out of the heat of Phoenix and see such beautiful country in that part of the state plus participate in a great project! On August 11th, we will be doing a project in either Unit 7 or Unit 8 up around Williams, which is another great chance to get into the cool country and help Pronghorn. On September 29th, we'll have the final project of the season, the Bonita project down in Unit 32 in southeast Arizona, which has been yielding tremendous results for our Pronghorn in that part of the state, I don't think you want to miss that one either, the weather is usually great on that project!

Please continue to support our Raffles. We have finished up the first one of 2018 and the next raffle to launch will be to win TWO Butler Sleeping Bags. We will limit ticket sales on this raffle so we expect it to sell out quickly! IF you miss this Raffle, don't worry, we will be launching a new one with lots of great prizes about every four weeks, so there will be plenty of opportunity for you to participate.

As always, I need to mention the summer BANQUET Fundraiser which will be held once again at the Embassy Suites in Tempe, Please mark this on your calendar for Saturday, June 16th, 2018. Prior to the Banquet will be the Annual Hunter's Clinic at the same location. The clinic will start around noon on Saturday and is free to Members and at a nominal fee for Non-members. Hopefully if one attends they will become a member!



With the new rules from the Arizona Game & Fish Department, we are no longer supplied the List of successful Draw Applicants for the upcoming season, so please help promote the Banquet & the Clinic by forwarding emails from us to anyone you know who might like to attend either or both. If you do know someone lucky enough to draw a Pronghorn Tag, please forward the Clinic information to them and direct them to our website for details. This event is a great chance for hunters who draw that coveted tag to chat with other hunters who have hunted those units and we usually have several Wildlife Managers from Antelope Units who are a huge source of knowledge for those hunters, so this is something they should not miss!

Lastly on the Clinic & Banquet, this year with the problems in south Africa we will not have some of the trips to auction that we have had available in the past, thus if any members out there have Any Connections to some great trips that can be auctioned off, please contact me or any Board of Director member and forward that information on,

(continued on page 13)

SAY WHAT??? ARIZONA ANTELOPE FOUNDATION BUILDS A FENCE???

BY GLEN DICKENS AAF VP/PROJECTS/GRANTS MGR.



Photos by Betty Dickens

Yes, it's true. I've been on the AAF Board now for 8 years and this is our 1st recorded "Fence Building Project" during my tenure. The good news is we had 35 volunteers that made the long drive to Ajo and another 9 miles northeast of there to the designated desert camp-site. The project work date was another 1st being held in the middle of the winter on January 27, 2018.

So why this location and why build a new one-acre livestock/burro proof fence around a seasonally filled livestock tank? Presently when full it attracts feral cattle and horses from nearby reservation lands onto the eastern edge of the Sonoran Pronghorn habitat as well as resident burros. This fence construction project will permit access to the water by all wildlife but prevent access by trespass feral livestock and burros. This project was identified by the Bureau of Land Management as very high priority need and the BLM not only provided all the materials but set all five corner posts in concrete the week prior to our work date. Thanks Mike Daehler, District BLM Wildlife Biologist!

How does this improve the habitat for Pronghorn? This effort is located on the eastern boundary of historic endangered Sonoran Pronghorn habitat. The BLM has a long-term plan of removing up to 54 miles of un-needed livestock fence in this zone to make it more attractive to Sonoran Pronghorn. This was the first of at least two projects and likely more we will be doing in this zone. Next January 2019 we will begin removing fence but more centrally south of Stanfield and Interstate 8 east of Gila Bend.

The fence was constructed of metal posts just 10 feet apart and was the usual wildlife standard fence with a 42-inch top and an 18-inch smooth bottom wire. It was solidly supported by dozens of stone tie downs where appropriate. In addition to the fence construction all the old wire on the ground from the previous fence was removed and rolled up. Time will tell if it has the desired effect of reducing livestock use in this area of Sonoran Pronghorn habitat.



BLM Biologist Mike Daehler thanks AAF Glen Dickens for a job well done!

Getting to the work site some 9 miles from camp was another challenge or as some drivers stated, “a real Adventure.” We carpooled and caravanned in high clearance 4WD vehicles only and it took over an hour to progress the 9 miles of which 3 miles was in severe climbing and rock rolling conditions. But no flat tires occurred, and we finished the entire project with no injuries by 3:30.

Dinners were served on Friday and Saturday nights with the sides provided by Mary and Bill Keebler and they hosted Saturday and Sunday morning breakfasts as well. Thanks Mary and Bill!

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

- Representing the AAF Board: Al Sue, Connie Taylor, Gary Boyer, Joe-Bill Pickrell, Ken Meadors and yours truly.
- Representing the Mule Deer Foundation: Sherry Kapaldo
- US Air Force: Jake Vincent, Humberto Morales and Curtis Brown
- ASU: Barbara Faultner
- Other AAF members and volunteers: Betty Dickens, Mary and Bill Keebler, Marsha Sue, Paul Pavlich, Jamie and Deana Watkins, Dave Laird, Johnny Johnson, Rita and Rob Rutledge, Ray Blanchard, Keith and Diane Azlin, Darrel Wood, Ken and Kathy Cook, Larry Thowe, Dino Cerchie, Tyler Mayberry and Charles and Mark Wilmer
- Game & Fish personnel: Troy Christensen
- BLM: Mike Daehler

Thanks, everyone for your efforts!



Here’s the Ajo crew all in one place for a moment. Take a look at some of the snapshots from this project on the following page. As you can see, we have room for a few more of you as well—don’t be shy! We couldn’t do what we do without your help.



FT HUACHUCA SENTINEL LANDSCAPE WORKSHOP
“GRASSLANDS, LEOPARD FROGS, AND LIVESTOCK,
FORT HUACHUCA’S 21ST CENTURY ALLIED FORCES”
MARCH 10, 2018
COCHISE COLLEGE, SIERRA VISTA CAMPUS

BY GLEN DICKENS AAF VP/PROJECTS/GRANTS MGR.

The first Ft. Huachuca Sentinel Landscape Workshop was held at an all-day session on March 10th, 2018 at the Sierra Vista Campus of Cochise College and included over 45 participants. The workshop included technical papers on the status and management of grasslands and species located in the Sentinel Landscape zone (please note the map for same).

Glen Dickens attended on behalf of the AAF and presented a paper giving a 6-year progress report on the “*Arizona Antelope Foundations Southeastern Arizona’s Grasslands Initiative*” with a focus on the Sonoita Plains. He gave the history of pronghorn restoration/transplant efforts begun in the early 1950’s and showing the you-tube video “*A Triumph for Pronghorn*” that gives a visual history of the AAF’s and Arizona Game and Fish Partnership to restore pronghorn numbers, modify 65 miles of fences and improve habitat across the 45,000 acres of the Sonoita Plains. Everyone in the audience gave a large round of applause at the films end. If you would like to view that film yourself go to our web page at azantelope.org and click on the link on the first page.

So, what are Sentinel Landscapes you ask? Sentinel Landscapes are working or natural lands important to the Nation’s defense mission – places where preserving the working and rural character of key landscapes **strengthens the economies of farms, ranches, and forests**; conserves habitat and natural resources; and protects vital test and training missions conducted on those military installations that anchor such landscapes.

The US Departments of Agriculture, Defense and the Interior established the Sentinel Landscapes Partnership through a Memorandum of Understanding in 2013. The Partnership is a nationwide Federal, state, local and private collaboration dedicated to **promoting natural resource sustainability** and the preservation of agricultural and conservation land uses in areas surrounding military installations. Agencies from the three Departments coordinate the Partnership at the national level through the Sentinel Landscapes Federal Coordination Committee.

The Sentinel Landscapes Partnership seeks to recognize and incentivize landowners to continue maintaining these landscapes in ways that contribute to the nation’s defense. Where shared interests can be identified within a Landscape, the Partnership coordinates mutually beneficial programs and strategies to preserve, enhance or protect habitat and working lands near military installations to reduce, **prevent or eliminate restrictions due to incompatible development that inhibit military testing and training**. Since the initiation of the Partnership in 2013, the FCC has designated six locations across the United States as Sentinel Landscapes of which Ft. Huachuca is one so designated in 2015.

What is the value of the Sentinel Landscape designation? The designation of a sentinel Landscape has several benefits for the anchor military installation(s) and the conservation and working lands—and local communities—that fall within the Landscape. Though no dedicated funding necessarily accompanies designation, individual partner agencies may choose to **provide program-specific funding or give priority consideration in existing funding processes to landowners within a designated Landscape**. Additionally, a designation will lead to improved recognition at the local, state, and national level for projects within a Landscape. Improved coordination across different resource priorities within a Sentinel Landscape also provides an

opportunity for participating agencies and organizations to better **target their collective resources and possibly develop new technical and financial assistance options** tailored to address local needs.

The partners list is extensive and includes over 20 federal, state and local governments and land agencies as well as the following non-governmental organizations:

- Arizona Antelope Foundation
- Arizona Land and Water Trust
- Borderlands Restoration
- Cienega Watershed Partnership
- Desert Landscape Conservation Cooperative
- National Audubon Society
- National Fish and Wildlife Foundation
- Sky Island Alliance

Specific to the Fort Huachuca Sentinel zone it is home to the premier restricted military airspace for unmanned aircraft system training in the western U.S. and supports training for personnel from the Air Force, Marine Corps, and U.S. Border Patrol. The remote, arid, and unique landscape surrounding the post near the Sonoran Desert is perfect for its electronic test mission, creating an electromagnetically quiet area for the Buffalo Soldier Electronic Test Range.

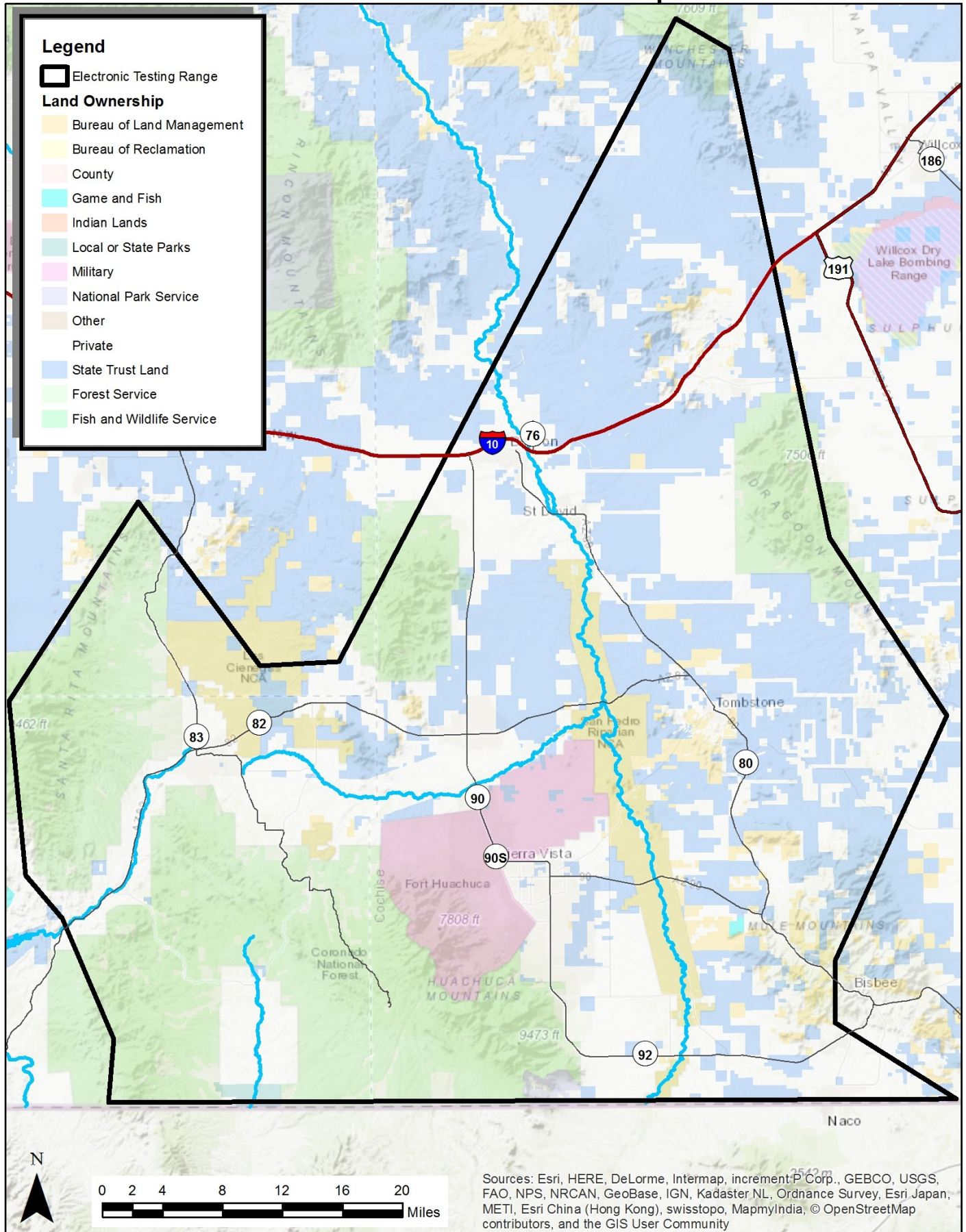
Within this region a variety of local, state, and federal partners are working to reduce land and water development while preserving native grassland and ranches. Providing incentives and technical assistance to private landowners helps sustain a local way of life and ensures availability of scarce groundwater resources for the entire region. The Sentinel Landscape partners aim to prevent the drilling of up to 1,475 new wells to preserve water necessary for Fort Huachuca's operation and the continued health and existence of species on and off post. In addition, protected lands buffer over 160,000 annual air operations and reduce proliferation of electromagnetic interference for 800 square miles of air space.

The Fort Huachuca Sentinel Landscape is home to a rich agricultural heritage where working ranches and forests are also key to grassland and watershed protection in a drought-prone region. Water from the Babocomari River and the Upper San Pedro River watersheds is critical to Fort Huachuca, local agriculture, and numerous threatened and endangered species. The Natural Resources Conservation Service (NRCS), U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, and the Arizona Land and Water Trust are leading efforts to assist private landowners in retaining 5,000 acres of productive and viable working farm and ranch lands that help to sustain Arizona's food and fiber production and environmental quality. Additionally, funding, outreach, and technical assistance from the U.S. Forest Service and state and private forestry is helping maintain working forests that enhance vital sources of water.

And finally, the Fort Huachuca Sentinel Landscape plays an active role in efforts to protect grassland and forest habitat, the species that rely on those habitats (including pronghorn antelope), and the water resources Fort Huachuca, wildlife, and the region need. Since 2015, funding has been leveraged within the Sentinel Landscape and restore 90,000 acres of private lands that serve as prime habitat for rare and native grasslands. Fort Huachuca Sentinel Landscape USFWS provides technical assistance and support for wetlands restoration and the reintroduction of sensitive and protected species, as well as regulatory compliance assistance for partner projects— including conservation credits for Fort Huachuca's land and water protection and management efforts. Meanwhile, the U.S. Forest Service has leveraged funds to protect and conserve over 600 acres of forested land adjacent to the Coronado National Forest, thereby helping to improve watershed conditions and address critical forest resource issues identified in Arizona's State Forest Action Plan.

The Arizona Antelope Foundation is pleased to be included in these multiple partnerships and have put in the time and hours and funding since 2012 to make a big difference for the pronghorn antelope located on the Sonoita Plains and within the Sentinel Landscape zone.

Fort Huachuca Sentinel Landscape Zone



HABITAT PARTNERSHIP COMMITTEE MEETING RESULTS FOR 2017

BY GLEN DICKENS AAF VP/PROJECTS/GRANTS MGR.

FUNDING SOURCES:

The program's primary funding source is Special Big Game License-Tag funds. The HPC strives to incorporate multiple funding sources and partners with matching funds and labor to bring the maximum benefit to wildlife on each approved project. The Arizona Game and Fish Commission annually awards three special big game license-tags per big game species (pronghorn being one) to nonprofit wildlife conservation organizations (Antelope Foundation receives two) that auction or raffle these tags to raise funding that is used to benefit the wildlife species for which the license-tag is issued. The sponsoring wildlife conservation organizations must cover all marketing and administrative costs for the license tag sales, and 100% of the money raised is returned to the state of Arizona Game and Fish Department (AGFD).

RESULTS:

These funds are allocated through the HPC Program by collaboration between the AGFD and Arizona's wildlife conservation organizations that market and sell the tags at the annual January HPC meeting. The applications considered are those developed during calendar 2017 and we reviewed them at an all-day meeting held on January 20, 2018 with the Arizona Antelope Foundation (represented by our President and Vice President), AZ Deer Association, Mule Deer Foundation, AZ Elk Society, Rocky Mt. Elk Foundation, AZ Desert Bighorn Sheep Society and the Wild Turkey Federation.

Each project proposal was put up one by one and received a vote for funding or not and a pledged amount from each of the species groups. In many, many cases there is strong overlap benefitting antelope/mule deer and elk and the projects receive funding from all three species tag accounts.

This "leveraged multi-big game species approach" this past January resulted in 20 pronghorn projects receiving funding utilizing \$210.6K of antelope tag funds which included \$7.5K from our National Fish and Wildlife Grant funds and \$206.75K from elk, \$294.15K from mule deer and whitetail and \$60K from bighorn sheep. Grand total \$771.5K benefitting antelope as well as elk/mule deer/ whitetail and bighorn sheep! All funds allocated this past January totaled over \$2.7 million all benefitting Arizona's big game species.

A sampler of some of the project titles to give you a sense of the types of projects funded include:

- West Tumbleweed Pasture - Bonita Grasslands Restoration Phase 8 Unit 32
- Windmill Pasture Herbicide Mesquite Spot Treatment Unit 32
- Bonita Aerial Coyote Removal Phase 2 Units 31/32
- Statewide Water Hauling all Units (includes all species)
- Rock House Valley South Guzzler Unit 12A
- Dirt Tank Cleanouts Unit 4A
- Coyote Trapping Unit 10
- Jaques Marsh PJ Thinning Unit 3B
- Catchment Redevelopments Unit 9

Our next issue of the *Pronghorn* will be featuring photos and summaries of multiple HPC projects that have been accomplished through this highly effective conservation partnership program.

BUENOS AIRES WILDLIFE REFUGE-ALTAR VALLEY FIELD TRIP TO REVIEW GRASSLAND PRONGHORN RESTORATION PROJECT EFFORTS JANUARY 30, 2018

BY GLEN DICKENS AAF VP/PROJECTS/GRANTS MGR.



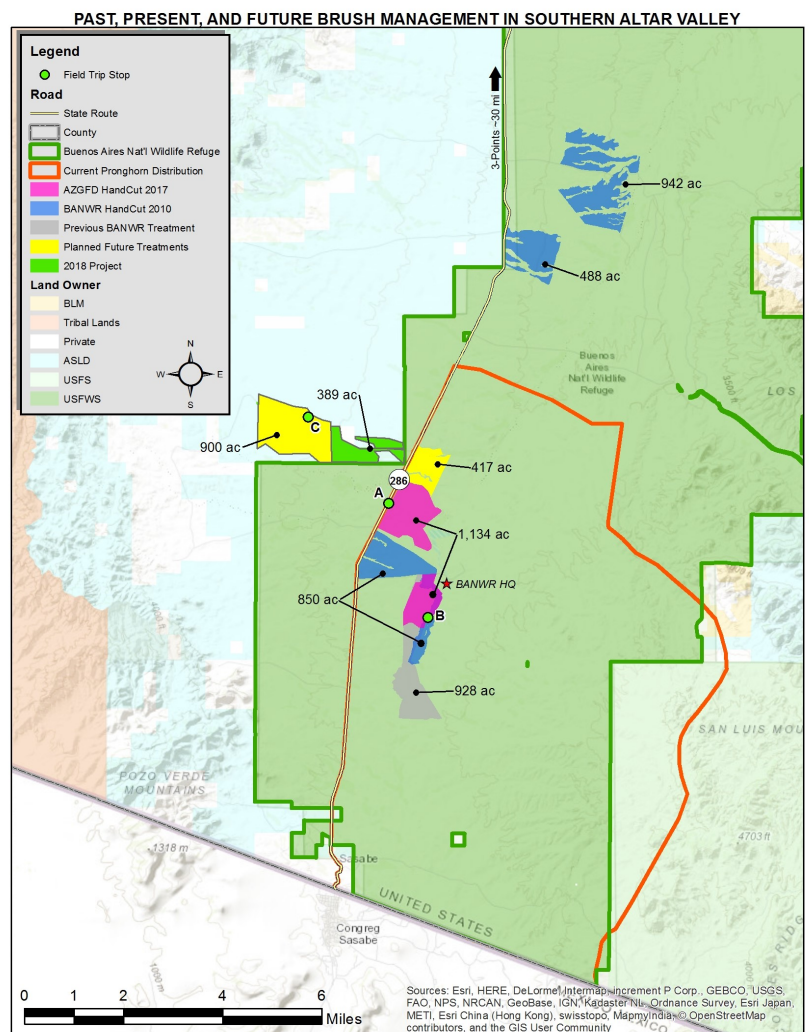
On Wednesday January 31st myself and current and past AAF Board members; Dave Brown, Tice Supplee, Ken Meadors, Al Sue, Gary Boyer, Joe Bill Pickrell, Connie Taylor and our Field and GIS Managers John Millican and Rana Tucker attended an all-day field trip in the Altar Valley and Buenos Aires National Wildlife Refuge southwest of Tucson. It was organized by Arizona Game and Fish Department Region V Wildlife Program Supervisor Karen Klima.

In addition to AGFD and AAF representatives the meeting included four lead employees/biologists from the Buenos Aires Wildlife Refuge (BANWR) and Kerry Baldwin and Kyle Thompson both of the Altar Valley Alliance. The theme of the field trip was to review areas that both need treatment and removal of mesquites as well as re-

view areas restored in the past 5-7 years. This included discussions about the BANWR habitat management history with regards to fire management, mesquite and fence removal and wildlife water development and current Pronghorn population status and distribution.

An impressive number of acres have been successfully restored near Refuge Headquarters and 9 of the remaining pronghorn posed for the group during our drive into the HQ for lunch. Another fact that came out of the review was that a very dedicated group of volunteers have removed over 45 miles of unneeded fence and are planning for more removal in the coming years.

Everyone who attended agreed the effort to restore pronghorn habitat and a more viable population of pronghorn was worth the present and future efforts required. The current population of Pronghorn in this area is estimated at fewer than 25 animals and many issues will need to be resolved and worked on to provide the opportunity for pronghorn population supplements to occur down the road in 5 to 6 years. That said, our thanks goes out to the AGFD Tucson Regional personnel for their continued commitment to improving Pronghorn habitat availability in the Altar Valley and BANWR and including the AAF in their planning efforts.





SONORAN PRONGHORN UPDATE



BY JILL BRIGHT AZ GAME & FISH
MARCH 2018

Captive Breeding:

Cabeza Pen

Fawning season has begun in the pen. The first fawns were seen on March 8 in the south half. As of March 31, there are 9 fawns with 6 does in the south half, with 5 more adult does likely to give birth. The first fawns in the north half were seen on March 21 and there are 8 fawns with 5 does with 5 does left to give birth. One newborn fawn from a set of twins in north pen was found dead soon after birth, likely a complication with the birth; the twin is healthy and doing well. The pen has greened up a bit, particularly the ocotillos and bursage, with the February rains. There was no rain in March. A bobcat was photo documented in the pen on 2 days in the end of March, but appears to have left with no known mortalities or injuries to any of the pronghorn. The pen crew is working to secure the fences and fix any locations where a predator might be able to get in the pen.

Animals in the Cabeza

| NORTH HALF | | SOUTH HALF | |
|------------------------------------|-----------|------------------------------------|-----------|
| Adult Females | 10 | Adult Females | 11 |
| Yearling Females (<i>b 2017</i>) | 9 | Yearling Females (<i>b 2017</i>) | 10 |
| Adult Males | 4 | Adult Males | 6 |
| Yearling Males (<i>b 2017</i>) | 7 | Yearling Males (<i>b 2017</i>) | 5 |
| Fawns (<i>b 2018</i>) | 8 | Fawns (<i>b 2018</i>) | 9 |
| | | | |
| TOTAL | 38 | TOTAL | 41 |
| Total Pen | 79 | | |

Kofa Pen

The Kofa pen herd dynamics began changing mid-month; the adult does began to separate from the herd on the 12th, mostly coming to the feeders on their own or with other adult does. The yearlings and bucks continued to graze in the pen, and then head to the feeders after the pen crew fed for the day. It also appears buck dominance has shifted from the Right Blue buck being dominant at the beginning of the month, and now the younger Right Green buck seems to have become the dominant buck. The pen crew began feeding at an additional feeding location in the pen to help accommodate the buck dynamics and the nursing and pregnant does. The first fawn was seen on March 21. Ten fawns have been born to 6 does. There are 5 adult does still to give birth. On March 31, vulture activity in the pen led the pen crew to a fawn mortality; nothing left but the head. Cameras documented a bobcat in the pen on March 28 and a coyote in the pen on March 29. Either one of these may have killed the fawn, but both predators appear to have left the pen. The pen crew has been actively trying to secure the fences to prevent any further ingress by predators.

The Kofa pen herd has been active this month. The yearling and adult bucks have been seen on a daily basis chasing the adult does. The bucks have also been seen regularly sparring with each other. The new buck moved to the pen in December seems to have integrated into the pen herd with no issues.

Most of the observation tower was erected on March 19; however, there are still 2 parts needed to be installed before the tower is functional. A well drilling company investigated the problems with the well on March 26 and we are awaiting their report on what needs to be done to fix it.

We are feeding alfalfa hay occasionally at the south release site due to the dry forage conditions around the pen and surrounding areas. Wild pronghorn are utilizing the site more often as temperature rise and forage continue to dry out.

| | |
|----------------------------------|-----------|
| Adult Females | 11 |
| Yearling Females (b 2017) | 5 |
| Adult Males | 4 |
| Yearling Males (b 2017) | 4 |
| Fawns (born 2018) | 10 |
| TOTAL | 34 |

Wild Pronghorn Cabeza/ORPI/BMGR Herd:

The doe released from the Marine holding pen continues to move large distances and was most recently just east of the Gila Mountains again. Most of the other pronghorn continue to use the same general areas. There were 5 fawns seen on the latest telemetry flight – most of them were with the groups on Organ Pipe Cactus NM where it is still fairly green. Most other areas are patchy but pretty dry.

Wild Pronghorn Kofa Herd: One of the two does near Highway 95 was found dead on March 29. It is likely she was hit by a vehicle and then completely scavenged by coyotes. The other doe remains in the same area near the highway. Most of the other animals continue to use the same general areas. No fawns have been seen yet in this herd.

Wild Pronghorn BMGR East of Highway 85 Herd: These pronghorn are typically in one or two groups south of the Saucedas Mountains, with another group north of the mountains. These animals continue to use the same general areas, and mix between groups frequently. One fawn was seen with the animals north of the Saucedas on the last flight; this area is still surprising green. The animals south of the Saucedas were not located due to time constraints, but the habitat is still in fairly good shape.

Water Projects: Devils Hills water was enlarged in the beginning of March; this should reduce water hauling needs there once it fills with rainwater.

Written April 6, 2018

(continued from Page 3—President’s Letter)

Any support will be greatly appreciated!

In this issue of the Pronghorn, Glen Dickens is working on a great article on Sentinel Landscapes. There are currently seven in the U.S., and Fort Huachuca is one. Glen’s article is very informative and well laid out, I am sure you will enjoy it! Once you have read Glen’s article you may want to go to the web site, that link is: <https://sentinellandscapes.org>

If anyone has any thoughts or comments regarding this issue of the Pronghorn, please write or email us at www.azantelope.org

Sincerely,

Brian R. George

President

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

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All mail entries must be received by July 13, 2018.
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Date: July 26, 2018

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ARIZONA ANTELOPE FOUNDATION



**26th Annual Hunter Clinic
Trophy Scoring
Recognition and Fundraising Banquet
June 16th 2018**

Embassy Suites Phoenix

4400 South Rural Rd. Tempe Az

Join us for a day of education, recognition and fun! Drawn for an antelope tag? Learn how to pursue this elusive animal at our clinic. Have a trophy you need scored? Officials will be on hand all day to assist. Then join us to recognize Arizona Trophy Book Award winners, and those who successfully harvested an antelope in 2017. We will also celebrate the many successes of the AZ Antelope Foundation, and raise some much needed funds to continue our important work.

Trophy Scoring 9:00am - 4:00pm

Clinic Registration 11:00-12:00 Clinic 12:00-4:00

Recognition & Fundraising Banquet 4:30pm – 10pm

**Complete the enclosed order form or register
online on our website at**

Azantelope.org



Arizona Antelope Foundation P.O. Box 12590 Glendale Az 85318
info@azantelope.org www.AzAntelope.org [Facebook.com/AzAntelope](https://www.facebook.com/AzAntelope)

MEET THE BOARD— GARY BOYER

On January 1, 2009, Gary Boyer turned over his business in Orange Co. CA. to his son and daughter-in-law. He retired to his second home in Prescott, AZ and began looking for volunteer opportunities. The first few years were spent building trails in the Prescott National Forest with the U.S. Forest Service. At the same time his brother-in-law, Dale, introduced him to some work projects with the AZ Sheep Society, AZ Elk Society and the Arizona Antelope Foundation. He found the AAF people welcoming and just a fun group to be around.

Two years ago Gary was approached by Glen Dickens who informed him of an opening coming up on the board of directors. After thinking on it he decided to invest more time and energy into AAF. He is now in his second year as a board member. This has been a wonderful learning experience, going on field trips to assess areas for future projects. Serving on the board has been a new experience for him. Seeing all of the behind the scenes work involved in running the AAF organization has made Gary appreciate the efforts of the board and volunteers in the very valuable work they do. Watching the Babocomari and Rose Tree Ranch herd in Southeastern Arizona rebound from 37 animals in 2012 to 199 in 2016 has been very gratifying.





Gary has been blessed with a very curious mind; so learning the techniques for fence modifications and the lives and habits of Arizona's Pronghorn was very appealing. He has been a lifelong Desert Rat, camper, conservationist and explorer. The AAF work projects fulfilled Gary's desire to give back and help improve wildlife habitat for our beautiful Pronghorn. The social life of camping and working also kept Gary from becoming a total hermit.

Gary is probably the only non-hunter on the board. AAF is not a hunting club, it is a conservation organization. In his early years Gary hunted birds and had a deer tag one year. No luck on the deer but he did harvest a very fresh roadkill that made for a fine venison feast that night.

Having been born and raised in southern California, the hunting culture did not really exist. SoCal culture was surfing, camping and dirt bikes. Gary sees harvesting wildlife as a scientific means of conserving our diverse variety of animals for our future generations.

He says being a part of critter groups is a fascinating learning experience. Working alongside AZG&F, AZSFWC, MDF, the U.S. Forest Service and others has made him appreciate the dedicated people involved with conserving our treasured wildlife.



MEMBERSHIP

LIFE MEMBERS

- | | | |
|------------------------------------|-----------------------------------|--------------------------------|
| 1. Art Pearce, Phoenix | 26. Shane Stewart, Gilbert | 51. Clifford Nystrom |
| 2. Jim Mehen, Flagstaff | 27. Don Davidson, Mesa | 52. Jon Coppa, Patagonia |
| 3. Larry D. Adams, Bullhead City | 28. Terry Petko, Mesa | 53. Neal Brown, Phoenix |
| 4. James K. McCasland, | 29. Gary M. Johnson, Phoenix | 54. Tice Supplee, Phoenix |
| 5. Nina Gammons, Payette, ID | 30. Richard Guenzel, Laramie WY | 55. Richard Miller, Flagstaff |
| 6. Nancy Lewis, Phoenix | 31. Randy Cherington, Scottsdale | 56. William Cullins, Chandler |
| 7. Pete Cimellaro, Phoenix | 32. Joe Del Re, Chandler | 57. Robert Neal Bushong, Yuma |
| 8. Jerry Weiers, Phoenix | 33. Bob Walker, Phoenix | 58. Art & Rosanne Porter |
| 9. Harry Carlson, Phoenix | 34. Cookie Nicoson, Williams | 59. Matt McNeil, Chandler |
| 10. David Brown, Phoenix | 35. Tim Blank, Mesa | 60. Susan Morse, Jericho VT |
| 11. Art Boswell, Tucson | 36. Jodi Stewart, Gilbert | 61. Gary Higby, Cottonwood |
| 12. Charlie Kelly, Scottsdale | 37. Keith Joyner, Scottsdale | 62. James Kavanaugh, Gilbert |
| 13. Chrissy Weiers, Phoenix | 38. David Hussey, Cave Creek | 63. Chad Elliott, Ehrenberg |
| 14. Al Sue, Scottsdale | 39. Susan Pearce, Tucson | 64. Donald C. Slack, Tucson |
| 15. Mary Keebler, Happy Jack | 40. Glen Dickens, Tucson | 65. Keith A. Heimes, Bellemont |
| 16. Bill Keebler, Happy Jack | 41. Will Garrison, Peoria | 66. Jon & Jan Hopkins, Mesa |
| 17. James Stewart, Phoenix | 42. Tom Waddell, Arizona | 67. Jim Lawrence, Phoenix |
| 18. Terry Schupp, Tempe | 43. Josiah Austin, Pearce | 68. Larry Audsley, Tucson |
| 19. Dale Hislop, Calgary Canada | 44. Connie Taylor, Mesa | 69. Mike Morales, Tucson |
| 20. Mick Rusing, Tucson | 45. Mark Boswell, Mesa | 70. Gary Boyer, Prescott |
| 21. George Welsh, Kingman | 46. Jessica R. Pearce, Scottsdale | 71. Charles Mackey, Cottonwood |
| 22. Matthew Massey, Gilbert | 47. Douglas Hartzler, Phoenix | 72. Dave Laird, Buckeye |
| 23. Don Parks, Peoria | 48. Karen LaFrance, Phoenix | 73. Alan Calvert, Buckeye |
| 24. Bill & Kerrie Jacoby, Chandler | 49. Kurt Schulz, Waddell | |
| 25. Adam Geottl, Cottonwood | 50. Walt Scrimgeour | |

SUSTAINING MEMBERS

- | | | |
|------------------------------|---------------------------------|-----------------------------|
| Joelle Buffa, Sierra Vista | Randy Gaskill, Show Low | Bob & Judy Prosser, Winslow |
| James Clayton, Chino Valley | Roger & Ilene Hailey, Flagstaff | Cam & Kitty Smith, Prescott |
| William Cordasco, Flagstaff | David Justice, Prescott | Jay Starks |
| Linda Dightmon, Peoria | Keith Newlon, Sierra Vista | James Unmacht II, New River |
| Michael Domanico, Scottsdale | Richard Ockenfels, Mayer | David L. Wolf, Flagstaff |
| Bonnie Evenson, Tucson | Sharon Ottman, Scottsdale | Darrel Wood, Marana |
| Gary Evenson, Tucson | C. Edward Perkins, Happy Jack | |

FAMILY MEMBERS

- | | | |
|-----------------------------------|------------------------------|---------------------------------|
| Jim & Rita Ammons, Yuma | Jay Leadabrand, Williams | Daniel Robinett, Elgin |
| Bruce & Vickie Belman, Flagstaff | Quentin Lewton, Sonoita | William & Jan Skibbe, Tucson |
| Dino & Pam Cerchie, Mesa | Tom Mackin, Flagstaff | Barry Sopher, Tucson |
| Kathy & Earl Clemans, Coolidge | Thomas McDaniel, Phoenix | Brian Taylor, Munds Park |
| Ken & Kathy Cook, Casa Grande | Kenneth Morris, Cave Creek | Christopher Vallejos, Flagstaff |
| Mary DeJong, Flagstaff | Mark & Kathi Nixon, Williams | Jamie Watkins, Phoenix |
| Ron & Sharon Eichelberger, Alpine | Amy Ostwinkle, Chandler | Charles Wilmer Jr, Phoenix |
| Patrick Frawley, Chandler | John Powers, Tempe | |
| Jeff Gagnon, Camp Verde | Pete & Ann Rathwell, Phoenix | |
| Brian George, Scottsdale | Brad Remfrey, Gilbert | |

WELCOME TO NEW MEMBERS

- | | | |
|----------------------------|-----------------------------|----------------------|
| Mitch Bradford, Chandler | Lori Macejka Piedmont, OK | Mark Wilmer, Phoenix |
| Joelle Buffa, Sierra Vista | John Powers, Tempe | |
| Dino & Pam Cerchie, Mesa | Charles Wilmer Sr, Phoenix | |
| William Griffin, Sun City | Charlies Wilmer Jr, Phoenix | |



Arizona Sportsmen for Wildlife Conservation

We learned on March 31st the Humane Society of the United States (HSUS) was going to throw in the towel on their "wildcat" signature drive and give up on getting the initiative to the ballot this year. Their acting CEO Kitty Block didn't let us down!

The significance of HSUS quitting is pretty remarkable, considering over the last 25 years and being involved in 81 ballot initiatives nationwide, they have never quit an effort! This didn't happen because of one group, or specific individuals, this was a concerted effort on many fronts. Some gave "a lot" and some gave all they could. However, the important thing was the Decline to Sign campaign worked, and HSUS quit...for now.

Kudos and thanks to Arizona sportsmen and women who engaged on this issue, in concert with AZSFWC and our member groups that contributed to the cause; AZ Antelope Foundation, AZ Bowhunters Association, AZ Deer Association, AZ Desert Bighorn Sheep Society, AZ Elk Society, AZ Houndsmen, AZ Chapter of NWTf and Yuma Valley Rod & Gun Club's Southwest Wildlife Foundation.

The HSUS post mortem was also quite interesting! Some of the issues they blamed for quitting included these comments:

1. Bad legislation in Arizona (Strict compliance with HB 2244 and hourly compensation for signature gatherers with HB 2404)
2. Not enough money (Seriously! Even though they have MILLIONS in their bank accounts)
3. Unnamed national issues in DC (BBB downgrade? Loss of fundraising dollars? Sexual harrasment allegations?)

In the end, "we" get a reprieve and AZ Game & Fish can continue to scientifically manage all our wildlife. However we can't rest!

Arizona sportsmen and women need to continue to coalesce and work together to educate the vast majority of Arizona voters who will make a difference in future ballot initiatives and elections.

We are going to have to do it ourselves too, as we won't be able to rely on any national organizations to bail us out.

That takes us to Conserve and Protect Arizona (CAPAZ), a 501(c)(4) organization whose mission is to protect our conservation heritage by educating the public and seeking legislative solutions. Check <https://conserveandprotectaz.org/> to read their press release on HSUS quitting.

Going forward, we all need to contribute and engage! Once again, thank you, we're just getting started!

Jim Unmacht
Executive Director

GREETINGS!



As you can see from the article/thank you letter above from AZSFWC, AAF members are involved not only on the ground to protect wildlife but on the battleground of the ballot box as well. For our newer members, Jim Unmacht is on the AAF Board of Governors for 2004 and 2005 and Tracy Unmacht served as the editor of the Pronghorn for years.

AZSFWC is a coalition of 35 wildlife conservation organizations. The key word in that sentence is "organization" because that is what it takes to educate the public and cover ground to keep up with the waterfall of information, causes, and shenanigans that inundate modern life.

Thank you for your support of the Arizona Antelope Foundation. We're all in this together and appreciate your contributions.

Best to you, Lenée