

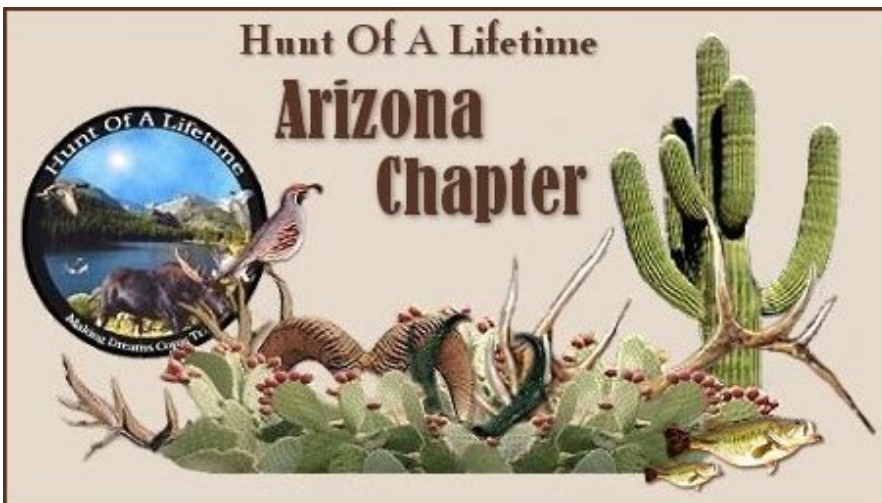


PRONGHORN

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WHY SHOULD YOU ATTEND THE 4TH ANNUAL AAF FUNDRAISING BANQUET ON JULY 14TH?

HERE IS A GOOD REASON...



The AAF has partnered with the Arizona Chapter of Hunt of a Lifetime. HOAL is a nonprofit organization whose mission is to grant hunting & fishing adventures and dreams for children age 21 and under, who have been diagnosed with life threatening illnesses.

Included in the price of every AAF banquet ticket is a \$5 donation to HOAL. The AAF will also match the \$5 for each ticket purchased, so every banquet ticket sold will generate \$10 for HOAL to help kids with wishes!

AND ANOTHER ...

Your contributions help us raise much needed funds to improve habitat for pronghorn throughout the state.

STILL MORE...

Back again will be Live and Silent Auctions, Raffles for Art, Great Hunts, Fishing Trips, Firearms, Hunting, Fishing and Camping Gear, and **lots of fun.**

For tickets call Don Johnson 480-983-6146.



Photo by Jake Fousek, Unit 21 Wildlife Manager
AZ Game & Fish

WATCH OUR WEBSITE FOR UPCOMING DETAILS

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Contact Us

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Visit us on the World Wide Web

**www.azantelope.org
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MEETINGS

Board meetings are held at 6:30 P.M on the 2nd Monday of each month at the Phoenix Zoo. Visitors welcome!

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

Pronghorn Editor, PO Box 15501, Phoenix, AZ 85060, or by email at info@azantelope.org.

PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

I would like to introduce myself, I am Brian George, and I am the 2007 AAF President. I was a Charter member and the treasurer the first few years of our existence. As my family and business grew, I, like many people, drifted away and was just a dues paying member for almost ten years. Don Johnson called in the fall of 2005 and asked if I would get active again, and initially with much reservation I did and I am happy that I did. I had forgotten how much joy and satisfaction there is to be gained from being an active member of any conservation organization. Therefore my main theme of this presidential message is, “GET ACTIVE”!

We need new membership and we need active membership!

We have numerous opportunities for you to get involved, many of which are described in detail elsewhere in this publication and on our website. Support us with your attendance, donations, and/or volunteer hours in one or more of the following:

- Participate in discussions regarding a host of issues affecting pronghorn and their habitat by attending our monthly meetings
- Bring your family to a habitat work project
- 4th Annual Fundraiser July 14th, 2007
- 15th Annual Hunters Clinic June 19th
- Adopt-A-Ranch
- Adopt-A-Catchment
- Adopt-A-Herd
- Assist AZ Game & Fish Department with pronghorn transplants
- Assist AZ Game & Fish with ongoing studies in capturing and collaring of Antelope.
- Purchase tickets for a chance to win a Ruger M77 in our annual Rifle Raffle



Brian pictured with his father's trophy

In essence, there is NO SHORTAGE of things we can do to help Pronghorn and their habitat, there is just a shortage of volunteers and money, and we are happy to take donations of either!!

I would like to publicly thank **Mr. Ron Fain and the Fain Land and Cattle Company** in Prescott Valley, Arizona for their help to provide additional pronghorn hunter opportunity on their ranch in unit 19A. Their willingness to work with the Arizona Game & Fish Department and Arizona's hunters is something that is sorely missing in many parts of our country and we are fortunate to have such good neighbors and sound stewards of prime antelope habitat here in Arizona. If you are fortunate enough to draw a muzzleloader antelope tag for their ranch, please do your part to help keep this ranch open for years to come!

The last item that I would like to mention is the Foundation just issued a reward that led to the arrest and conviction of several individuals that wantonly poached an antelope. This incident has prompted the AAF to set up a standing reward fund and if anyone would like to contribute specifically to this fund, please send your tax deductible donations to us and label the check – REWARD FUND! Your help and generous donations will be greatly appreciated!!

If anyone has anything that they would like to specifically talk to me about, they can Email me at info@azantelope.org or send it to my personal E mail Address Brian@Farwestlog.com or feel free to call me directly at (602) 793 – 3515. Good luck in the upcoming draw! We hope to see new members and newly active members at a Board Meeting or Project in the near future!

Brian George

COUPLE'S TIP LEADS TO APPREHENSION OF PRONGHORN POACHERS AND \$500 REWARD

Thanks to keen attention and prompt reporting by a Navajo County couple, Arizona Game and Fish Department officers were able to make a successful antelope poaching case against two people from the Phoenix area. The couple reported a suspicious incident they had just observed and got a cooperative, timely response from the Snowflake-Taylor Police Department and a Navajo County deputy sheriff, as well as Game and Fish.

As the couple drove a paved county road into Snowflake last June, they saw individuals in a vehicle aiming rifles at a doe antelope standing off the road. The witnesses immediately went to the Snowflake-Taylor Police Department to report the incident, whereupon police officials contacted Paul Greer, wildlife manager in Game Management Unit 3A, who was about 45 minutes from the scene.

Greer says, "During my response time, a police officer was able to stop and detain a vehicle that matched the description given by the witnesses. Had the witnesses not acted so promptly and been observant enough to memorize the vehicle and suspect descriptions, it's likely we would not have been able to make this case."

The officers' investigation of the poaching site found the suspects had shot at the doe several times. They then drove a quarter-mile down the road where they off-loaded their ATVs. Driving cross-country back to the antelope, they took photos of themselves with the doe. They left the animal where it lay and were leaving the area when they were stopped.

Investigation of the doe carcass showed it was lactating when it was killed, indicating it was nursing

one or more fawns. Although the officers searched the area for several hours, they were unable to find a fawn, which likely died due to loss of the mother.

Greer's background investigation found the suspects had applied for several years for antelope permits in Arizona. "This is a heinous act," he says. "These people were very much aware of antelope seasons and the state's hunting regulations."

The Snowflake Justice Court found the two guilty of taking big game during a closed season and waste of game meat. The two paid a combined criminal fine of \$2,292.

In the upcoming months, the two suspects will have a hearing before the Arizona Game and Fish Commission for possible civil assessments of \$750 each and up to a 5-year revocation of their hunting, fishing and trapping privileges.

"Had it not been for the actions taken by the witnesses that day, these individuals may well have repeated their acts of blatant disregard for wildlife and Arizona's wildlife laws," Greer notes. "This is an excellent example of how the public can be the eyes and ears of the Department, and can help us maintain the wildlife resources that belong to the citizens of Arizona."

Due to the nature of the offense, the actions taken by the witnesses and their willingness to provide written statements and testify in court, the department paid the couple a reward of \$250. The AAF also teamed with the department to match the \$250 reward amount with funds of its own, and invited the couple to be guests at the annual fund-raising banquet.

OPERATION GAME THIEF 1-800-352-0700 24 HOURS A DAY

POACHERS are thieves, and they are stealing from the citizens of Arizona. Operation Game Thief is a public awareness program that allows people to call in on a toll free hotline, 24 hours a day, 365 days a year to report these wildlife violations. Callers may remain anonymous if so desired. **Most cell phone calls to the OGT hotline are now TOLL-FREE.** If your service is provided by either Verizon or Alltel, simply dial # HUNT and you will be connected to the hotline. You can also now report violations online. Visit the Arizona Game & Fish website for more information.

WWW.AZGFD.GOV

PRONGHORN CAPTURE

BY TICE SUPPLEE

An early start on Saturday morning got me to Flagstaff before dawn. The temperature a chilling 19 degrees, brrrr. When we got to the meeting place about 15 miles north of Flagstaff on Highway 89A, Norris Dodd greeted us with warm coffee freshly brewed. Now that is the way to treat volunteers!!

AAF Board members Dave Brown and Paul Webb, and AAF Advisor Richard Ockenfels had been up the day before to avoid the winter road conditions. Our assignment on this cold but calm Saturday morning was to drive to observation points on either side of highway 89A and help the Arizona Game and Fish Department locate herds of pronghorn. So why all this extra effort? Norris Dodd is the lead research biologist for a study being funded by the Arizona Department of Transportation to learn if, where, and how pronghorn cross the highway. There are plans to widen the road and the information from this study may influence future construction design that includes wildlife crossings that pronghorn will use. High speed roads with right-of-way fences typically stop pronghorn in their tracks, according to the research done by Richard Ockenfels in the same area and other places in the State. Norris needed radios on animals from as many different herd groups from both sides of the road to get the sample he needed for the study. So that was our job—go find antelope!!!



We broke up into teams; AAF volunteers, the four newest Arizona Game and Fish Department Game Rangers, and Flagstaff Regional Supervisor Ron Sieg. I hopped in with Rich Ockenfels and we turned on to a likely dirt track about four miles from base camp. The Game Department had an airplane overhead and we could hear them reporting back to the helicopter net gunning capture team where they were finding antelope. We very quickly found a herd bedded at the edge of the junipers, near a basalt rock outcrop I have named “predator rock”. When we drove in there was a pair of golden eagles sitting on this rock and on the way out a coyote was sitting on the other end of the same rock! Later in the day a prairie falcon flew past us. I turned to Richard and said “you watch, that falcon is going to land on the same damn rock.” It did...”Predator Rock”.



Excitement began almost right away. We were able to watch the helicopter close in on multiple captures and watch the netting. Very exciting! Master netgunner Larry Phoenix was on target all day, flying until the sun was setting. His “mugger”, Jeff Gagnon (this is the guy who is told “JUMP” when the skids are still 12 feet from the ground), worked as hard wrestling the animals in the netting and getting a blindfold on to calm them down so the work of attaching the telemetry equipment, marking the animal, and untangling it from the netting (no easy task!) could be accomplished quickly. The beauty of the net guns is no need to tranquilize the animals, so once the collaring work is done, they are good to go!

AAF President Brian George gets the “eagle eyes” award. Helps to be a long time Arizona Desert Bighorn Sheep Society member, he knows how to find critters! Brian located a herd tucked in under the junipers on the east side of the road, where more collars were needed.

At the end of a day and a morning all 16 radio collars were on pronghorn and sending signals. The research project has begun. The volunteer hours from the Arizona Antelope Foundation will be used as matching money for federal grants to fund the project, so time really well spent.

Richard and I ran into AAF member Paul Delaney in the field. At first I thought we were driving up to cowboys with a lot of cattle dogs, and Paul saw the Game and Fish logo on the truck and thought we were game rangers out to check their licenses. Paul is master of the Grand Canyon Hounds. The “cattle dogs” were a pack of fox hounds and their quarry is coyote. May they catch a lot of them! We noticed that the coyotes moved in the minute an animal was netted. Paul has since contacted me and has offered volunteers to help on pronghorn projects from the membership of Grand Canyon Hounds. Thanks Paul!

A HISTORY OF THE ANDERSON MESA ANTELOPE HERD

PART I BY DAVID BROWN

No area in Arizona is associated with pronghorn antelope as much as Game Management Unit 5 containing Anderson Mesa. More than a fourth of all of the pronghorn in the "Millennium" edition of the Arizona Wildlife Federation's trophy book either came from this unit, or are from areas restocked with animals from Anderson Mesa. Three of the top five pronghorn trophies in the Boone and Crockett Club's North American Record Book are from Coconino County where Anderson Mesa is located. Anderson Mesa was the site of Arizona's first legal pronghorn hunt, and this stony plateau has been a focal point for pronghorn research since the 1930s. Pronghorn studies on Anderson Mesa have included developing antelope capture techniques, determining winter food habits, and evaluating the effects of coyote control on fawn survival. At one time, estimates placed the number of pronghorn on Anderson Mesa at between 4000 and 5000 head.

Named after Jim Anderson, an early settler, this 6400 to 7200 foot high plateau south and east of Flagstaff encompasses about 400 square miles of volcanic basalt, a rocky substrate commonly referred to as malpai or "bad lands." Annual precipitation averages about 18 inches and the primary vegetation is intermountain prairie interspersed with stands of ponderosa pine and pinyon-juniper woodland. Perennial streams are lacking, and natural water sources are limited to a few springs and a number of ephemeral lakes, which when full, become important nesting sites for migratory waterfowl. In addition to pronghorn, Anderson Mesa is an important area for mule deer and wild turkey, and, beginning in the 1970s, one of the state's premier elk herds.

Anderson Mesa's pronghorn are only part-time residents. All of the antelope leave the mesa in some winters, and some pronghorn leave the mesa during most winters. Hemmed in by pine forests on the north, west, and south, the pronghorn drift eastward in November or December to drop off of the plateau's rim in search of a more moderate climate. Following ancient migratory routes down Grapevine, Anderson, Padre, and other canyon avenues, the pronghorn pass through a belt of junipers to winter on the grassy plains of sage and saltbush that extend southward from the Little Colorado River. Here the pronghorn mix with other antelope, at

least some of which are permanent residents of these lowlands.

But all is not well with Anderson Mesa and its pronghorn. Fewer than 300 antelope were surveyed in Game Management Unit 5 in 2002, and fewer than 10 bucks were taken during the hunt. The reason for these low numbers is a chronic loss of fawns. During the 1990's, fewer than 15 does in a 100 were able to raise a fawn to adulthood. Dissatisfied with this poor reproductive performance, and fearful that Anderson Mesa's pronghorn were headed for oblivion, the Arizona Wildlife Federation sued the Coconino National Forest over the management of Anderson Mesa. Agency personnel are equally concerned, and under the leadership of the Flagstaff office of the Arizona Game and Fish Department, a coalition of Department biologists, Forest Service resource managers, local ranchers, and interested sportsmen are developing a cooperative program to increase pronghorn numbers on Anderson Mesa.

Anderson Mesa was not always a cause for concern. With the abandonment of Walnut Canyon and other Anasazi cultural sites in the 14th Century, the area was without resident peoples, either Indian or White. No one knows who the first non-Indian was to see Anderson Mesa,

but he was most likely an illiterate "mountain man" or an Hispanic sheep herder from the Rio Grande Valley passing through on his way to California in the 1840s. What is known, is that the first written descriptions of the Mesa were by Americans intent on surveying their newly acquired territories from Mexico. The writers of these accounts included members of the 1851 Sitgreaves military reconnaissance, personnel attached with the Whipple survey of 1853-1854, and the great Mormon pathfinder Jacob Hamblin. On arriving in the vicinity of the San Francisco Peaks in December 1853, Whipple's party found large herds of pronghorn "*on a sweep of lava plains covered with an excellent growth of gramma grass,*" and Whipple himself reported following the trail of "*at least one hundred.*" But although Whipple's report described "forked-horned antelope" as being "everywhere," there is no mention of Indians nor elk, only antelope, deer, hares and turkeys, all of which were described as abundant.

Four years later, Lieutenant Edward Fitzgerald Beale and his caravan of 24 camels pioneered a wagon



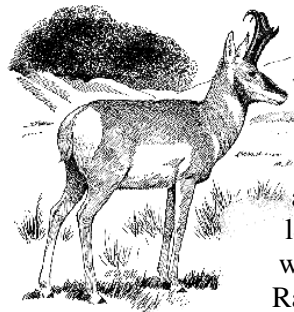
route from Fort Defiance to the Colorado River. Arriving in the vicinity of Anderson Mesa in the summer of 1857, Beale (1858:50) described the landscape:

“we traveled rapidly over a lovely country of open forest and mountain valley, which continually drew exclamations of delight and surprise from every member of the party. Even the stoicism and indifference to beauty of scenery so characteristic of the lower class of Spanish population was moved and as we passed successive vales and glades, filled with verdant grass knee high to our mules, dotted with flowers, and edges skirted by gigantic pines, they constantly gave vent to their delight in fervent ejaculations.”

Anderson Mesa’s verdant grasses encouraged settlement, and an attempt by Jacob Hamblin to colonize the country east of the San Francisco Peaks was thwarted only by having to deal with the troubles earlier Mormon colonists were having with the Navajos and Hopis at Moenkopi. Other pioneers also recognized the livestock raising potential of Anderson Mesa, but, because of Indian troubles and a lack of markets, stock-raising in Arizona would remain largely transitory until after the Civil War. Indeed, it was not until the summer of 1876, that the Daggs brothers herded a large flock of sheep across Anderson Mesa preparatory to setting up headquarters at Chavez Pass where they would eventually pasture 50,000 woolies. Later that same summer, William Ashurst located a sheep ranch on Anderson Mesa proper, and other sheep ranches were established near what is now Upper Lake Mary. By this time, Mormon colonists along the Little Colorado River were using Grapevine Springs and Anderson Mesa as a summer pasture for the sheep that they were wintering in the lower country around Canyon Diablo.

Cattlemen were not far behind, and bovines were grazing on Anderson Mesa as early as 1877.

Slowly but steadily, settlers moved on to the mesa, building cabins and corrals near the few available springs, and running livestock on the open range. The numbers of animals were not especially large, however, until after 1881 when the Atlantic and Pacific Railroad connected Canyon



Diablo with Albuquerque and the East.

With a market for all the meat and wool that could be

produced, livestock numbers multiplied, prompting an editorial in the Flagstaff newspaper:

“Many of our ranches which a few years ago had ample water and pasturage for the number of cattle maintained are now said to be overstocked and new pastures are being sought.”
Arizona Champion, October 31, 1885

But newcomers kept coming, some to settle the land under the Homestead Act of 1862, others merely to run livestock on the open range. Then, with the completion of the railroad, every other section of land within 40 miles of the right-of-way between Holbrook and Flagstaff, was ceded by the government to the railroad, which sold it to the Aztec Land and Cattle Company, a cattle corporation commonly known by its “Hashknife” brand. The Hashknife promptly moved in 40,000 cattle on its patented sections, which were also the winter range for other ranchers not to mention Anderson Mesa’s pronghorn. There not then being any fences, Hashknife livestock mingled with the cattle and sheep already present, resulting in an increasing number of sheepmen having to trail their flocks to irrigated lands in the Salt and Gila River valleys as there was now insufficient winter forage to support them.

The antelope, at least those on Anderson Mesa proper, could still be found in good numbers, however. In the summer of 1885, J. R. W. Hitchcock and a friend embarked from the train in the frontier town of Flagstaff to take in the sights. After hiring one of the local citizens as a guide and outfitter, the two men went to inspect the Indian ruins at Walnut Canyon and do a little deer hunting. Proceeding a few miles beyond the ruins, Hitchcock provided a first-hand description of Anderson Mesa in the January 1886 issue of *Outing Magazine*:

“we entered a vast natural park, probably ten miles long and five wide. It was covered with a luxuriant growth of grass nearly knee-high, but seared and yellow, which seemed to afford an excellent grazing ground.”

Here, and in the adjacent “parks,” the three men had “a succession of adventures with antelopes, the principal if not sole game of the region.” After unsuccessfully stalking “a large herd of antelopes feeding in the open ground temptingly near the edge of the forest,” the men climbed what may have been Pine Hill to observe the “great forest park, dotted with herds of antelopes and fringed with scattered pines, beyond which the forests stretched away in solid ranks to the southern horizon.”

Continued on page 14



SONORAN PRONGHORN

UPDATE



BY JILL BRIGHT AZ GAME & FISH
MARCH 22, 2007

Captive Breeding:

North Half: All the animals are doing well. Four of the five adult females in the north half have given birth to at least 6 fawns. In addition, one yearling doe has given birth to a single fawn. This yearling was born in the pen in spring of 2005, so this is the second generation born in the pen. So far, we think there are 3 males and 2 female fawns. The other fawns are still too small to tell yet. The one remaining adult doe and the other yearling have not been seen with fawns yet. The first fawns this year were seen on March 6th, which is about 3 weeks later than last year.

Southwest Quarter: All the animals in the southwest quarter are doing well. Three of the four pregnant does in this section all have twins, resulting in 6 fawns, sex undetermined at this time. One doe still appears to be pregnant. Veterinary results on Teal do not indicate anything wrong with her, so we have been watching her more carefully to make sure she is eating well. She seems to be eating a little better lately and has put on a little weight, but she is still in poorer condition than the other animals.

Southeast Quarter: The 5 yearling males in this quarter are doing well.

We are irrigating in all sections of the pen, as it is very dry, and has been getting hot. There still has not been any appreciable rain over Sonoran pronghorn range since October 2006.

Water Projects: We are planning to expand Granite Mountains water, with volunteer help from the Marine Corp, on April 3-6. We had hoped to expand the one remaining Sierra Pinta water on the weekend of April 6-8, but it doesn't look like we will have enough volunteers, and we will most likely postpone that project. That water is still functioning, and there are two other waters within several miles of it.

Forage Enhancements: Nothing new to report.

Other Projects: We are in the process of hiring a new Wildlife Specialist to work ½ time on the Air Force forage enhancement projects and ½ time at the captive breeding pen. This position should greatly increase our ability to get the work done that is needed to complete the Water Well project and expand the Granite Mountains forage plot.

Wild Pronghorn: We did a telemetry flight on March 18. We again tried to download the 5 GPS collars, but none of them would download. We found one adult male that we collared in December on mortality signal on the southeast side of the Sierra Pintas. We retrieved the collar, but cause of death was undetermined. The collar is one of the new GPS collars, so retrieving it should help us and Telonics determine what is wrong with these collars.

We found 2 single females on the east side of the Sierra Pintas, one in the Mohawk Valley, and one on the west side of the Granites. We didn't see any fawns with these females, but based on their behavior, separating themselves from the herd, we suspect they may have, or are getting ready, to have fawns. The rest of the collared pronghorn were in the area around the southeast corner of South Tac. One group of 10 had 8 males in it, including 2 of the released yearlings. The other two released yearlings had moved over west of the Growlers, and, although separate, were in an area with lots of pronghorn nearby.

Conditions over most of the range are very dry, although there are some areas that are markedly better than others. The area that burned on South Tac in 2005 is greener than most areas, with large patches of green forage in the washes. This is also where 5 radio collars, and 18 pronghorn were seen on the telemetry flight. Some parts of the Mohawk Valley, and some areas around the Fawn Hills along the east side of the Sierra Pinta mountains are also fairly green. This is the area where the dead buck was found.



Pictured are several pronghorn in the southwest quarter; adult females orange and orange/brown, both pregnant in this photo, and a male and female fawn from last year. Photo by Mike Coffeen, 3/2/07.

Editor's Note: On 3/23/07 Tim Tibbits reported good news: 0.36" rain in Ajo overnight, 0.7" at Organ Pipe HQ, radar indicated lots of eastern CPNWR and western ORPI received similar totals.

ADOPT-A-CATCHMENT PROGRAM

A JOINT VENTURE WITH THE ARIZONA WILDLIFE FEDERATION

BY TERRY HERNDON

What is this you ask? Well, it is as it sounds. The Adopt-A-Catchment Program is the brain child of the Arizona Wildlife Federation. The AWF has always been involved with some type of habitat restoration like fence removal and the clearing out of cedar and juniper trees. This year we will also be a partner with the Arizona Game and Fish with the Adopt-A-Catchment Program.

What this program will do is not about belonging to any group or club. This program is for anyone who would like to help the game and fish and all of the wildlife that inhabit our forests and deserts. To be a part of this program is very simple, the hard part is making sure you keep a schedule of the water hole or Arizona Game and Fish drinker you adopt.

How do you adopt a catchment you ask?? Well, that is pretty simple too. All you need to do is contact the regional manager for the unit you plan on adopting the tank that you choose. The manager may need you to adopt another tank that needs to be checked more than the one you have your mind set on, but don't despair, this is a good thing as it will get you in the field, learn about other areas, and, while doing so, you will be a part

of what makes the program so important and that is the survival of the animals that use these water sources day and night. Below are the numbers to call and the people you need to speak with to get this procedure started:

Region I Rick Langley (928) 367-4281 ext. 1130
Region II (North of the Colorado River)
Bob Price (435) 574-3923
Region II (South of Colorado River)
John Goodwin (928) 774-5045 ext. 1270
Region III Erin Riddering (928) 692-7700 ext. 2330
Region IV Bob Henry (928) 342-0091 ext. 4048
Region V Jim Heffelfinger (520) 628-5376 ext. 4448
Region VI Jon Hanna (480) 981-9400 ext. 3555

This is a commitment to what we enjoy the most in this state and with this commitment you and everyone will help the wildlife and the habitat that is so essential to the survival of the animals we love to watch and hunt.

So, go ahead and adopt a tank or two—the wildlife needs all the help they can get in these drought years and the game and fish needs all the help they can get keeping these tanks and catchments maintained.

QUENCHING THE THIRST FOR KNOWLEDGE

DAVID E. BROWN AND MELANIE TLUCZEK

Western visitors, whether from Europe or the eastern United States, looked upon the West as a “desert”—a place without water where a man and his horse could die of thirst. So ominous was the prospect of running out of water that an early explorer of the Sonoran Desert named W J McGee penned an essay on “Thirst as a Disease.” So ingrained within our culture was this need for water that we failed to appreciate that animals who lived in the desert had obviously solved the thirst problem.

Humans, meddlers that we are, immediately set out to alleviate this lack of water for both altruistic and practical reasons. Water developments were necessary, not only for us to remain in one place, but to farm and raise livestock. So it was that no one even thought to question whether those animals that lived in the desert also needed more water. That was a given. All one had to do was observe the birds, bees and other animals that flocked to the waters that we developed. Provide water, it was reasoned, and they will come—and, it was also reasoned, increase and multiply.

As a young Wildlife Manager, who came to Arizona in 1961, I was no exception. I recommended the construction in my district of numerous water

catchments, game guzzlers we used to call them. The hope and expectation was that bighorn sheep, deer, doves and quail would benefit by having a dependable water source. Of this, there could be no doubt. All one had to do was observe the creatures that came to these developments. I remember counting well over 100

desert mule deer during a June night in the Picacho Mountains in southern Arizona.

I, like nearly everyone else, never questioned the desirability of providing water. Never mind that desert animals such as kangaroo rats, pack rats, and ringtail cats manufacture metabolic water and are able to subsist without us providing them with this essential compound. That earlier studies by the Arizona Game and Fish Department had showed that quail used water

developments, and that the presence of water affected their distribution, was reason enough to build more guzzlers. Never mind that these “improvements” did not increase quail numbers. That the rise and fall of quail populations was determined by vitamins, not water availability, was only what has come to be known in today’s parlance as “an inconvenient truth.” Nor did developing more waters increase dove populations. Isolated windmills that formerly quenched the thirst of thousands of whitewings, when supplemented by more wells, were now only visited by hundreds of these birds.

Large mammals were something else, however. It only stood to reason that water was limiting not only their distribution but their numbers. If water allowed mule deer, bighorn, or javelina the use of a formerly waterless area, that was reason enough. By merely making waterless areas available, we could increase their numbers. Indeed, populations of deer and sheep, at least in some areas and in some years, increased. Unfortunately, designed experiments to measure any numerical changes were lacking

But disappointment is the desert’s constant companion. Droughts came and big game populations plummeted—with or without the presence of water.



Studies by Arizona Game and Fish biologists showed that, while pronghorn fawn recruitment was significantly associated with water availability they found forage availability to be more important. Wildlife managers despaired. Of what use was water without sustenance? Gradually a truth became apparent.

Water alone would not suffice. Without nutritious forage, animals, no matter how desert adapted, could not survive and reproduce. Without rain, nothing grows. When nothing grows, animals die. It was time to take a look at all of the limiting factors that the desert had to offer.

What characterizes a desert is not only the paucity of rain, but the erratic nature of it... It has always been so. Animals in Africa and Asia have been

adapting to desert conditions for millions of years. In North America, desert animals have been evolving with drought since Miocene times, ca. 18 million years ago. Some of these adaptations are physiological, others behavioral. To understand how animals cope with drought, we first need to understand how these adaptations function. Then, and only then, may we perhaps be able to benefit those animals we choose to assist.

So how do animals cope with periodic bouts of prolonged drought? To do so requires the ability to survive a worst case scenario. Smaller animals spend the heat of the day underground. Larger animals develop nomadic or migratory behavior and some such as camels and wild burros drink and store copious quantities of water. Others, such as the pronghorn antelope of North America conserve fluids by reducing the moisture content of their waste, by having a light, reflective color, and by aligning their gracile form perpendicular to the sun. Even more advantageous is the species ability to cool the brain and other vital organs with special blood vessels. Surprisingly, pronghorn in desert areas often forgo drinking, preferring instead to obtain their moisture from succulent cacti.

Pronghorn may also possess other methods of combating thirst. A look at the present distributions of pronghorn in the Sonoran Desert shows that the only populations remaining reside within 150 km of the ocean. All of these populations, along with the also native bighorn, subsist without free water. When water is provided to free ranging pronghorn, few drink it. One theory is that they obtain water by ingesting early morning dew. Another is that they feed at night when the water content of plants is higher.

Merely providing water is clearly not an answer. More knowledge is required to determine if we can maintain low densities of pronghorn and other large desert animals during drought events—episodes that appear to come with increasing frequency. Fortunately, answers may be on the way. Biologists such as John Hervert in Arizona and Jorge Cancino in Mexico are determining whether irrigated food plots can allow pronghorn to survive droughts. Melanie Tluczek in Arizona and Alice Koch in California are investigating the animal's nighttime feeding habits. Hopefully, their quests will result in a better understanding of the animal's water balance needs before it is too late.

COME JOIN US FOR OUR 15TH ANNUAL HUNTER CLINIC ON JUNE 19TH SPORTSMAN'S WAREHOUSE I-17 & YORKSHIRE

Tag or not, you are welcome to come to the Sportsman's Warehouse on June 19th 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 regional representatives 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 2008. Someone in attendance will be the lucky winner of a rifle that the Sportsman's Warehouse is donating to the event!

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.

AAF CONSERVATION AWARDS

Last year the Arizona Antelope Foundation voted to establish an annual conservation award to recognize those who's work on pronghorn antelope resulted in significant increases in our understanding of pronghorn and an increase in numbers of this species into new and/or historical habitat.

For the first of these awards, the AAF has elected two exemplary individuals— Richard Ockenfels and Jim DeVos - both within the Research Branch of the Arizona Game & Fish Department. Both of these individuals have worked diligently for many, many years on this species, and their efforts on the job and on their own time have benefited pronghorn populations from the Grand Canyon and Petrified Forest south to the Mexican border and beyond.

The AAF has chosen to honor these two individuals not only for their professional efforts, which have been of the highest caliber, but for their personal commitment to the species. Richard and Jim have not only given pronghorn the highest priority in their research, initiating and completing numerous studies on pronghorn, they have dedicated a great deal of their private time to promoting the species within conservation organizations and through the aid of volunteers. The AAF is therefore pleased to honor each of these two individuals with the first ever Arizona Antelope Foundation Annual Conservation Award.



Richard Ockenfels



Jim DeVos

UPDATE FOLLOWING AAF SUPPORTED SEEDING EFFORT IN THE COCONINO BY HENRY PROVENCIO, USFS

After the Lizard Fire in 2003 the rehab team decided to try and seed parts of the fire for soil stabilization. We thought it would be a good idea to get some forbs into the mix. Since the rehab efforts won't allow us to spend money on forbs, we asked the AAF if they would be willing to pay for some forb seed. Thanks to their contribution, we ended up with about 400 pounds of fourwing saltbush seed. We decided that the saltbush seed was way too valuable to include with the rest of the seed mix (which generally blows away or is eaten by birds), so our range folks looked up the soil units within the fire boundary that already contained salt bush and went out to those soil types and spread the seed by hand. We figured that we would have more success by spreading the seed in soil types where it already occurred. The results have been mixed, in many of the areas we did see allot of sprouting and in the more severe areas it appears that the soils are too unstable at this point for anything to take (lots of wind erosion). After that fire we did see an awful lot of globemallow coming up, and we didn't seed that.

In 2004 the Jacket fire burned into the Lizard fire. We elected not to broadcast seed the area because the natural regeneration was so good in the Lizard Fire. Although, our range specialist took the opportunity to seed a few test plots while the fire was still burning and the ash had not crusted over. The results have been excellent! The take home message is that seeding is most affective immediately after the fire, before the water resistant crust forms. Seeding can be a great way to stabilize the soil; it really depends on where and when you are doing it. After the Jacket fire we did seed with a hydromulcher a very small portion where noxious weeds were a problem (these are real weeds like knapweed, and brome, not forbs). this seeding did take very well, but its expensive to hydromulch a large area. The idea was to create a buffer between the bad weeds and the rest of the area, to keep them from spreading. It seems to be working.

LRP AND HORSESHOE RANCH ADOPT-A-RANCH PROJECT

BY TROY CHRISTENSEN

The Arizona Game and Fish Department's Landowner Relations Program (LRP) has two primary objectives. One is to work with private landowners and land management agencies to enhance wildlife habitat and populations. The other is to protect or acquire access to public and State Trust land ensuring continued recreational opportunities for the State of Arizona. Multiple tools are used to accomplish these objectives. Using funding from a variety of sources – Heritage Fund, Wildlife Conservation Fund, Landowner Incentive Program, Farm Bill, other state and Federal grants, partnering, and special tags– LRP works with landowners to fund property maintenance or improvements; in return, the department secures recreational access for the public or habitat improvements to benefit wildlife. Projects include cleaning out dirt tanks, installing pipeline and troughs to disperse water to dry areas, replacing hog wire fence with wildlife-friendly fence, and landscape-scale juniper clearing projects. LRP also protects public access by working with private landowners and public agencies on establishing rights-of-way, perpetual easements, and conservation easements. LRP includes the Landowner Respect Program, which provides informative and regulatory signs along with other access enhancements (such as gates and cattle guards) on private, state and federal lands. The Landowner Respect Program is designed to improve recreation ethics, mitigate access issues and maintain public access. Over 300 ranches participate in this program. LRP even has a heavy equipment operator who grades ranch roads in exchange for public access.



Another way the LRP is involved in improving habitat is through the Adopt-a-Ranch Program. On March 3rd, the AAF sponsored its biannual Adopt-a-Ranch project with the Horseshoe Ranch, in Unit 21. Probably due to conflicting volunteer projects, there was a smaller turnout of AAF members than expected. But we still had a good crew of 23 volunteers from the ASU Conservation Biology Class, Friends of the Agua Fria and other volunteers that heard about the project on the AGFD website.



We focused all of our efforts to complete the fence along Forest Road 14. We know it was worthwhile because when we got there we found a dead doe pronghorn which had gotten tangled in the fence. The wire roller machine was mounted on the back of a quad and it made quick work of rolling up the old barbed wire. Volunteers attached a smooth wire 18 inches up from the ground to benefit wildlife (such as pronghorn antelope) which prefer to go under fences they come to. The volunteers also adjusted the other fence wires so cattle would stay where they should and wildlife which go over or through fences could pass easier.

If you want to help the LRP improve wildlife habitat, the next fence modification on the Horseshoe Ranch will probably be in September when we will modify a BLM fence in a very key pronghorn area.

Even before that, on May 5th, there will be a fence modification project on the Yavapai Ranch, near Seligman.

Thanks to our hosts, Dale Longbrake and Jimmie Petersen. And many thanks to the following volunteers: Wanda Kolomyjec, Philip Moore, Oscar Oland, Alicia McKee, Stacy Kolegas, Corey Beaugh, Bryan Colby, Joe Bill Pickrell, Richard Ockenfels, Tim Flood, Melissa Biggs, Tim Vaughn, Robin Daugherty, Jen Litteral, Cassandra Winchell, Maura McAnslan, Holly Hicks, Owen Barcala, Megan Ponce, Merideth Wasson, Manuela Gonzalez, David Brown, and Thom Hulén.

History of Anderson Mesa Continued from page 7

But more and more settlers were also coming to Anderson Mesa, and it is as difficult today as it was then to imagine how many people and livestock would soon be living there -- even local areas like Hay Lake supported a population of 60 people by 1894. Every spring and ciénegas became the headquarters for a sheep or cattle ranch, resulting in another editorial:



“many portions of the Territory are now overstocked to an alarming extent... all available ranges where a natural supply of water can be had are now located and settled upon and those seeking ranges are compelled to buy or intrude on other parties property”

Arizona Champion, December 1, 1888

Such demands on the Mesa's forage could not of course last. The early 1890s were drought years and the numbers of livestock peaked in 1891. The winter of 1892-93 was bitterly cold with January storms sweeping across Anderson Mesa for days on end, and even the winter range near Winslow was covered with 18 inches of crusted snow and ice. Cattle starved and froze by the thousands and range inventories were halved. To make matters even worse, 1893 was a year of financial crisis. Most of the corporate livestock owners went broke or sold out as did the Hash Knife in 1901, leaving only the "little outfits" of ranching families who had no one to sell to and no where to go. The situation for the pronghorn appears to have been equally dire. Arizona rancher and historian Will Barnes reported that by 1898 he could only count 250 antelope in all of the country that he had formerly ranged between Holbrook and Winslow—an area which he estimated contained 50,000 pronghorn on his arrival in 1883. Largely on the basis of reports like Barnes,' the Territorial Legislature closed the antelope season in 1905 for five years or until March, 1911.

In 1898, Republican President William McKinley signed an Executive Order withdrawing the San Francisco Mountains and Black Mesa Forest Reserves from homesteading, thus retaining most of the unsettled portions of Anderson Mesa in the public domain. After some boundary adjustments, both reserves were reorganized as the Coconino National Forest in 1908. The newly created Forest Service favored cattle

over sheep due the government's bias in favor of small family ranches over corporations. At one point, in 1902, President Theodore Roosevelt almost signed an order banning sheep from the Coconino altogether. Government management was minimal, however, and few limits were imposed on the number of livestock pastured. Sheep herds were restricted to particular sites but cattle numbers depended largely on how many animals the permittee thought he could run. Everyone with a legitimate claim or homestead was allowed to use the adjacent National Forest provided a grazing fee of \$1.00 was paid for each head of stock. Most stockmen used the forest service lands for cow-calf operations or as lambing grounds as there was no charge for young animals. Generally unpopular with territorial politicians, the Forest Service concentrated on being a good neighbor, and not a government money-maker even though actual livestock numbers were sometimes twice the permit numbers.

The Coconino National Forest was largely open range and remained so until 1927 with only individual homesteads and corrals being fenced. The only government fence was a drift fence built in 1915 that ran from General Springs on the Mogollon Rim to a few miles west of Flagstaff. Only the area east of the fence, including Anderson Mesa was open to the grazing of both sheep and cattle. The sheep had to be herded from site to site, but the cattle were allowed to drift between the summer and winter range depending on the season and forage condition. Heavy grazing was favored to reduce fires, and livestock numbers again crept upward. By 1910 there were 5463 cattle permitted on Anderson Mesa, or about 1 cow per 40 acres. Sheep grazing was more intense and may have been as high as one sheep per acre per month. Early Forest Service range measurements, researched by Dr. Rick Miller of the Arizona Game and Fish Department, indicate that the forest service's range staff were concerned that much of the Coconino National Forest had been "eaten or sheeped out" by 1904, and that the native bunch-grasses had been practically eliminated prior to 1910. Nor had the status of the pronghorn improved. The Arizona state legislature opted not to reopen the season on pronghorn antelope in the new State Game Code of 1912.

The years preceding War I saw good rains and good prices, and a lenient government favored increased permit numbers. The result was that more permits were issued for both sheep and cattle in 1918 than at any other time in the history of the Coconino National Forest. Increased numbers prompted an effort to distribute livestock to all parts of the National Forest; every available water was developed and numerous stock tanks were dug out with horse-drawn Fresno scrapers. Dual use was the norm on Anderson Mesa, and animals were

allowed on the summer range as early as possible. In the meantime, the remaining government sections on the lower, winter range were selected by State Land Commissioner Obed Lassen as per the "in lieu selection" process that compensated the state for any "state school sections" taken in by the National Forests.

Although some stability had been achieved by the permit system that gave grazing lease preferences to base property owners, range management on the Coconino was still in the formative stage. To alleviate some of the effects of creating national forest reserves by Executive Order, Congress passed two more homestead acts, The Forest Homestead Act of 1906 and the Stock-raising Homestead Act of 1916. The former allowed claimants to take up 160 acres of meadow or other non-forested lands within the national forests for farming, and the latter allowed an individual to homestead 640 acres and graze 50 head of cattle on lands the Forest Service deemed appropriate for such use. Accordingly, settlement continued unabated, and the peak period of homestead filing on Anderson Mesa was between 1915 and 1925 with the last homestead not being patented until 1935. By the early 1920s there were 21 cattle and 11 sheep permittees on Anderson Mesa, coinciding with the peak number of people then living there, all of who were attempting to eke out a living by ranching, dry-farming, wood-cutting, operating stills, and living off of the land in general. Small settlements, and even school districts were formed, with at least 30 people were living in the Anderson Pass District alone.

All of this activity was obviously hard on Anderson Mesa's antelope. Unlike other parts of the country, however, Anderson Mesa never lost its pronghorn. Nor, according to Don Neff's interviews with old time residents of Anderson Mesa, were these animals overtly harassed. Most of the homesteaders and stockmen stated that they actually liked antelope. This was also the opinion of Dr. E. W. Nelson, a biologist with the U. S. Biological Survey, who while en route to the North Kaibab and Arizona Strip in September, 1909, spent some time on the Anderson Mesa winter range south of Winslow. Nelson concluded that this species was "*still rather generally distributed throughout the cedar and piñon belt south of [what was now] the Atchinson Topeka and Santa Fe railroad, where these animals were said to be at least holding their own and are probably increasing in number.*" Nelson attributed this increase to the protection of the stockmen, and estimated the number of antelope to be between 60 and 70 southwest of Sunset Pass (where they ranged into yellow



pine forest), with another 100 between Chevelon and Jack's canyons.

Another biologist with the U. S. Biological Survey, E. A. Goldman (1873-1946), traveled around Arizona in 1913 giving demonstrations to farmers and ranchers on how to poison prairie dogs and gophers. On May 1 of that year he visited Mormon Lake and found it full with numerous prairie dogs close to the lakeshore. He described the grassland of Anderson Mesa as "*extending for 15 or 20 miles southward, and containing numerous prairie dogs.*" He remained at Mormon Lake until July 29 when he went to Anderson Mesa to collect pronghorn for the U. S. National Museum. Goldman's field notes describe the "stony mesa" as "*rolling, mainly open country, and rather thickly covered with grass, but here and there scattered over the plain are belts and isolated trees and groups of junipers, piñons, and a few ponderosa pines.*" Operating out of the Yaeger Ranch, he spent the entire day of July 31, hunting on foot and unsuccessfully stalking an individual antelope. On August 3, he saw two pronghorn near Pine Hill and killed one at 247 yards. The following day he saw four more and shot two. Goldman's account would indicate that these animals, while flighty and not especially numerous, were not particularly scarce either.

But the excesses attendant with the war years did take a toll. Many of the West's rangelands, including those on Anderson Mesa, had been heavily overgrazed, and game numbers were at all time lows. Pronghorn were thought to be in danger of extinction, so much so that by 1921, conservationists were despairing of saving the species. So great was the public concern that a national conference was scheduled to develop a plan to prevent the pronghorn's total disappearance from the western plains. Attendant with the conference was an international census to be conducted between 1921 and 1923 using regional estimates made by foresters, game wardens, predator control agents, ranchers, and other knowledgeable people. Those areas having enough public land and enough pronghorn would be considered as potential sites for a national antelope refuge.

The results of the survey, although almost certainly too conservative, were not as discouraging as many had feared. More than 30,000 pronghorn were estimated to still survive, 26,000 of them in the U.S., mostly in Wyoming, Montana, and northern Nevada. The total population of pronghorn in Arizona, however, was estimated at only 651 animals in 18 locations. Only

113 antelope were thought to remain on Anderson Mesa--too few for a national antelope refuge.

What the people at the conference did not know, was that a recovery was already underway. Reacting to the poor range conditions brought on by the war years, the U. S. Forest Service began reducing livestock permit numbers in 1918 and continued doing so for the next 10 years. The Coconino National Forest was no exception; bunch-grasses and such important herbs as deer-vetch had virtually disappeared. Each year now saw fewer and fewer sheep and cattle permits on Anderson Mesa. Some of the reductions were draconian; the Hennessey Sheep Co., ranging around Ashurst Lake, was cut from 3292 to 2185 head between 1924 and 1925--a one year reduction of 34%. By the late 1920s sheep numbers on Anderson Mesa had been cut 40% and cattle numbers 65%. Large numbers of feral horses and trespass stock had also been rounded up and removed. Allotments began to be fenced beginning about 1927, and by 1930 all dual use had ended. Each pasture was now managed either for sheep or cattle, with the result that only two sheep allotments remained on Anderson Mesa in the 1920s. Most importantly perhaps, the eight month grazing season on Anderson Mesa, beginning the first half of April, was reduced in 1922 to a five month grazing season that did not commence until June 1.

Improved range conditions, coupled with increased protection and other measures undoubtedly benefited Anderson Mesa's pronghorn, and on September 23, 1927, the Coconino Sun reported:

"The antelope is one of the rarest animals in Arizona. Everyone here is inclined to protect the antelope and because of it the number is rapidly increasing. Possession of a dead antelope carries a minimum penalty of \$100 fine."

When the Arizona Game Protective Association was formed in 1923, the organization had adopted the pronghorn for a logo and the animal was now being touted as a conservation success story. Forest Supervisor Edward G. Miller, a pronghorn advocate, proudly estimated a population of 1400 antelope on the Coconino National Forest in 1928. In 1929 the number was said to be 1500, and in 1930, 3300, of which between 1500 and 2000 were reportedly on Anderson Mesa!



Going from 113 animals in 1923 to more than 3000 in 1930, however, is almost a biologically impossibility given an original buck:doe ratio of 54:100 for an un hunted population, and several years with a fawn crop near the maximum potential of 180 fawns per 100 does. Either the 1923 population estimate was too conservative or Miller's estimates were too optimistic. Later surveys indicated the former, and it soon became clear that pronghorn, at least those on Anderson Mesa, were making a comeback. But then as now, the reasons governing pronghorn population dynamics could be enigmatic, a situation that later prompted a biologist investigating the Anderson Mesa antelope herd to chide:

"The antelope herds in Arizona have built up from near extinction to their present numbers with little attention from agencies concerned with their status."

Theodore Knipe, The Status of the Antelope Herds of Northern Arizona, 1944

Knipe's admonishment notwithstanding, there were several good reasons why the pronghorn population on Anderson Mesa recovered as it did. The delayed entry of livestock on to the summer range and the cessation of dual use certainly had a beneficial effect on the Mesa's forage. And, other factors may also have been at work. According to the Coconino Sun, hundreds of fires occurred on the Coconino National Forest between June, 1923, and the early summer of 1929, several of them on or near Anderson Mesa. Although all of these fires had been extinguished, some had "consumed" several hundred acres, and at least one more than 1000. Although the recuperative power of grassland fires to stimulate and fertilize herbaceous vegetation was not then widely appreciated, later studies have shown that the combined effects of reduced livestock pressures and fire can greatly enhance the growth of nutritious forbs. The effects of this increased nutritional level on fawn survival, while never measured, would provide a likely explanation for the increase in pronghorn numbers noted during the relatively wet 1920s.

Read the rest of the story in upcoming issues of the *Pronghorn*

2006 PRONGHORN TOOTH AGING STUDY

BY DAVID BROWN

We received teeth from 43 pronghorn taken during the 2006 season, all of which were sent on to the Armendaris Ranch and Marston's Laboratory for aging. With some notable exceptions most of these were from young animals with the highest scoring trophy being a 3-year old from New Mexico. The second largest entry was a 6-year old taken in Unit 18A in Arizona. None of the animals scoring in the 90s was older than six and an 88 ¾ buck taken by Arlene Stayner in Unit 10 was judged to only be a 2-year old. The two notable exceptions were the magnificent old bucks taken by Eric Gardner and Dale Hislop, which scored 88 ½ and 86 ½ respectively. Both of these trophies were aged at 9 or older. Previous studies have shown that pronghorn horn size depends on the age of the animal with most trophies being between the ages of four and six. Winter temperatures, and the precipitation received and the forage conditions present are also important. Moreover, bucks born during a good year tend to have large horns throughout their life.

The AAF once again plans to continue this study for 2007. If you will be hunting antelope this season, please consider participating. It is simple to do and it won't cost you anything except some postage.

After you harvest your trophy pull one of the middle incisors from the lower jaw (antelope do not have any upper incisors). The best way to do this is to take a heavy knife or screwdriver and cut through the gums along the sides of the tooth. Once the tooth is loose, or you have cut deep enough, pry out the entire tooth including the root.

Place the tooth into a small envelope with your name, address & phone number on it. Please include hunt state & game management unit, and any other pertinent information.

We also would like the rough B & C (or P & Y) green score. All we need is the length of the right and left horn plus the circumference at the base, circumference at 1st quarter, circumference at second quarter, and the circumference of the 3rd quarter along with the length of the prong for each horn. The guide in the Arizona Trophy book or B & C book shows just how to do it. Score sheet can be obtained from our website.

Mail all to P.O. Box 15501, Phoenix, AZ 85060-5501. If you'd like to receive a copy of the age, include a self-addressed stamped envelope.

Pronghorn scores and ages sent in for 2006

#	Name	Unit & State	Score	Age
B-1	Texas necropsy	TX	<70	2
B-2	R. Turquette	58 WY	<70	2
B-3	T. Hulen	58 WY	<70	2
B-4	J. Guevin	5B AZ	<70	2
B-5	R. Ockenfels	13A AZ	<70	2
B-6	S. Waltz	4B AZ	73 1/4	6
A-13	S. Friesen	Roy, NM	78 1/2	2
A-16	J. Williams	San R. UT	78 1/2	7 or 8
A-21	S. Friesen	Cornudas TX	78 1/2	3 or 4
A-4	L. Burlesen	Roy, NM	79	2 or 3
A-28	T. Romsa	Cornudas TX	79	3
A-1	J. Martin	UT	79 1/4	7
B-7	D. Marshall	3BN AZ	79 1/2	8 or 9
A-8	E. Schierling	47 WY	79 3/4	7
A-12	W. Murphy	Roy, NM	80	3 or 4
A-22	P. Wollernman	Cornudas TX	80	6
A-24	C. Marftin	Cornudas TX	80 1/4	2 or 3
A-10	T. Grimmet	68 WY	80 1/4	5
A-9	M. Schierling	47 WY	81 1/4	9 or 10
A-23	T Romsa	11 NM	82	4
B-8	M. Tellez	NM	82 1/8	6
A-2	D. Leach	Roy, NM	82 1/4	2 or 3
A-5	L. Noble	20 NM	82 3/4	4
A-7	T. Hanna	Cornudas TX	82 3/4	3
A-3	T. Pehrson	10 AZ	83 1/4	2 or 3
A-6	J. Perkins	Cornudas TX	83 1/2	4
A-27	J. Martin	Cornudas TX	84 1/2	3
A-25	B. Hornberger	Cornudas TX	84 3/4	3
A-26	R. Pierce	Cornudas TX	84 3/4	5
A-18	J. Motts	7 AZ	85 1/2	5 or 6
A-11	E. Grimmet	68 WY	85 3/4	2
A-34	D. Hislop	San Carlos IR	86 1/2	9
B-9	S. Vaughn	17 AZ	87	4
A-17	F. Yancy	36 NM	87 1/2	3 or 4
A-29	D. Pierce	37NM	87 1/2	4
A-31	F. Chase	1 AZ	88*	4
A-20	J. Fox	36 NM	88 1/4	3 or 4
A-33	E. Gardner	17B AZ	88 1/2	9 or 10
A-15	A. Stayner	10 AZ	88 3/4	2
A-19	D. Fox	36 NM	91	4
A-30	M. Pierce	37 NM	92	3
B-10	M. Domsher	18A	92 1/4	6
A-14	F. Yancy	36 NM	93	3

* green



SHORT SHOTS

ARIZONA BIG GAME SUPER RAFFLE

The funds generated last year on the pronghorn tag in the Super Raffle were phenomenal at over \$48,000. Don't miss your chance to win one of the coveted Commissioner's tags, a Swarovski optics package, or a caribou hunt in Quebec!

Complete the ticket order form on the next page and send with your payment to the address listed. Your order must be received by **June 25, 2007**. The drawing for this raffle will occur in early July in Flagstaff. Visit the Super Raffle website more information. www.arizonabiggamesuperraffle.com

ROBERT E. PETERSEN

Arizona's wildlife lost a long time friend on March 23, 2007...Robert E. Petersen passed away at the age of 80 in Santa Monica, California. He was an Honorary Life Member of the Arizona Antelope Foundation and former Chairman of the Board of Petersen Publishing Company. At one time Mr. Petersen's company was the leading publisher of special-interest consumer magazines and books in America.

Mr. Petersen was an avid sportsman, and to his credit spent over \$1.5 M on Arizona wildlife, much of which was in the form of Arizona Game & Fish Commissioner's Special Tags, including eleven Special Antelope Tags. On some occasions where Mr. Petersen wasn't the successful bidder, his participation in the process ensured the tag went for a great price! On March 15, 2003, Mr. Petersen paid the highest price ever for a Special Antelope Tag, \$65,000. To this day, that is the second highest amount paid for an antelope tag in Arizona. Thank you Mr. Petersen, you will be missed.

COMMISSIONER'S TAGS

There are three Commissioner's Tags again this year for Antelope. The first was auctioned off at the Arizona Desert Bighorn Sheep Society Fundraiser, March 17th and brought in \$42,500.00. This was down from some prior years where tags sold for \$65,000.00. However, it is still an amount that we never thought we would see when these auctions were first initiated! The second tag will be auctioned at our Fundraiser on July 14th and the third tag is part of the Arizona Big Game Super Raffle. The funds generated last year on the Super Raffle Pronghorn Tag were phenomenal, so I urge everyone to buy a ticket and specifically at least one for Pronghorn!

RIFLE RAFFLE

Don't miss your chance to win in our annual rifle raffle and at the same time, help Arizona's Pronghorn. This year's rifle is a **Ruger M77 Rifle** Mark II Model 77 Synthetic / Stainless 270 WSM and includes Tasco World Class 5-20 x 50 Rifle Scope, Harris bipod, sling and Winchester lockable hard case.

Tickets are \$10 Each or 3 for \$25 and should arrive in your mailbox soon. We will also be selling tickets at a Sportsman's Warehouse near you and Ben Avery shooting range.

Winner will be drawn at our 4th Annual Fundraising Banquet July 14, 2007 (Need not be present to win).



Many thanks to Sportsman's Warehouse for donating this beautiful rifle.

ADOPT-A-HERD

As previously reported, the Arizona Antelope Foundation has entered into an agreement with the Arizona Game and Fish Department to try and locate and evaluate several pronghorn populations too small for the Department to survey on a regular basis.

If you, or anyone you know, is interested in participating in these surveys, please contact Dave Brown at bosco069@aol.com and he will put you in contact with the proper Game and Fish officer in your area of interest.

THANKS

Thanks to Scott M. Beth & Keith A. Jantzen of Palo Alto, CA for their generous \$100 gift.



ARIZONA BIG GAME SUPER RAFFLE

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



For information go to www.arizonabiggamesuperraffle.com

OFFICIAL ENTRY FORM • MAY BE PHOTOCOPIED
MAIL ORDERS MUST BE RECEIVED
BY JUNE 25, 2007

Number of Entries Add total number of entries ordered at the bottom of this column	Cost per Entry	Dollar Amount Add total number of dollars at bottom of column
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ANTELOPE	365 Day Season • Per Commission Order 29	\$20 each	
BLACK BEAR	365 Day Season • Per Commission Order 29	\$5 each	
BUFFALO	365 Day Season • Per Commission Order 29	\$20 each	
COUES WHITETAIL	365 Day Season • Per Commission Order 29	\$10 each	
DESERT BIGHORN	365 Day Season • Per Commission Order 29	\$25 each	
ELK	365 Day Season • Per Commission Order 29	\$25 each	
TURKEY Gould's or Merriams	365 Day Season • Per Commission Order 29	\$10 each	
JAVELINA	365 Day Season • Per Commission Order 29	\$5 each	
MULE DEER	365 Day Season • Per Commission Order 29	\$20 each	
SWAROVSKI OPTICS RAFFLE		\$10 each	
ONE OF ALL THE ABOVE		\$150 FOR ALL TEN!	

PURCHASE ONE (1) of ALL THE ABOVE AND RECEIVE A "FREE" Entry FOR A \$6,500 CARIBOU HUNT PACKAGE SPONSORED BY SPORTSMAN'S WAREHOUSE

For description of hunt package go to: www.arizonabiggamesuperraffle.com

Purchase multiple "All Ten" Packages and you will get one **'FREE' ENTRY** for each "All Ten" Package purchased.

Mark the number of "All Ten" Packages purchased - here.

US Funds Only • Checks & Credit Cards • Do Not Send Cash In Mail

TOTALS

\$

Name (Please Print Clearly) _____

Address _____

City _____ State _____ Zip _____ Phone: () _____

Credit Card Visa MC Am Exp _____

Signature: _____ Exp. Date _____

Make checks payable to: AZBGSR Mail to: AZBGSR • PO Box 61713 • Phoenix, AZ 85082
All Sales Are Final. No Refunds.



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SPORTSMAN'S CALENDAR OF UPCOMING EVENTS!

<i>WHAT?</i>	<i>WHEN?</i>	<i>WHERE?</i>
The Arizona Antelope Foundation Board Meetings	May 14 6:30 PM June 11 6:30 PM July 9 6:30 PM	The Phoenix Zoo 455 N. Galvin Parkway
AAF Work Projects	May 5 June 8 August	Yavapai Ranch Anderson Mesa Eagle Creek Unit 28
The Wildlife Conservation Council Board Meetings	April 24 6:30 PM May 22 6:30 PM June 26 6:30 PM	AZ Game & Fish Department 2221 W. Greenway Rd
AWF Trophy Banquet & Fundraiser	May 5 5:00 PM	Mountain Preserve Center
AAF Hunters Clinic	June 19 5:15 PM	Sportsman's Warehouse Phx
AAF Fundraising Banquet	July 14 4:00 PM	El Zaribah Shrine Phx

Would you like the Pronghorn via email....let us know! Or if you have an upcoming event, send us the information at info@azantelope.org.