



PRONGHORN

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Pronghorn is a quarterly newsletter for the members of AAF. Letters, comments, news items, articles, pictures and stories are all welcome and will be considered for publication. Address all such items to: Pronghorn Editor, PO Box 12590, Glendale, AZ 85318, or by email at info@azantelope.org.

PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

As we assess the state of our economy, your Arizona Antelope Foundation (AAF) pauses to reflect on the year behind us and make plans for the year ahead.

As your President for 2009, I asked the entire Board of Directors to do just that in January. Your Board rightfully congratulated Tice Supplee, the 2008 President, and her administration for a phenomenal turnaround from 2007. Our annual Fundraiser had near record attendance and nearly doubled the bottom line. In addition, AAF's annual hunter's clinic once again had over 100 in attendance and we conducted 4 habitat improvement projects. Our newly published book *Arizona's PRONGHORN ANTELOPE, A Conservation Legacy* sold 250 copies in just its first year. Finally, Tracy Unmacht was given a 1-year agreement to serve as AAF's Administrative Assistant to keep all of us informed and organized. To sum it up, it was a great year. THANK YOU TICE.

Your 2009 Board is off and running already planning our Fundraiser (July 18th at El Zaribah Shriners' Hall in Phoenix), the Hunter's Clinic (June 16th at Sportsman's Warehouse in North Phoenix) and 4 more Habitat projects are on the calendar. Check out our award-winning web site at www.azantelope.org for details.

In addition to our activities, your Board is giving our budget a close eye. Among some our cost cutting ideas and to facilitate more member involvement, the Board intends to hold at least portion of its monthly meetings via *teleconference*. Watch the website and the monthly e-news for how and when to join us on the *teleconfer-*



ence. We are also searching for additional revenue sources. We are considering one or two now but we invite your ideas.

A tough economic time is ahead for our country but through the work and contributions of you, our members, AAF will strive to accomplish our mission of increasing Arizona's Pronghorn population and improving its habitat throughout 2009.

"Pitch-in" in 2009! I did for the first time in 1996 and I am glad I did. Join us, you will be glad you did and so will Arizona's pronghorn!

Your 2009 President,
Jimmy

ON THE COVER

Photo credits for this edition's cover go to Dave Sipe for this shot, taken last summer in unit 9. This same animal was featured in our previous issue of the *Pronghorn* (photo at right). It showed what Dave believed to be scarring from a tangle with a fence on the other side of the antelope's body.

Thanks for the great photo !



ANTELOPE AWARENESS DAY A BOUNDING SUCCESS!

BY DAVID BROWN

The Arizona Antelope Foundation in conjunction with the Friends of the Agua Fria National Monument presented an Antelope Awareness Day on Saturday, February 28, 2009, at the Horseshoe Ranch off Bloody Basin Road. The purpose of the get-together was to inform interested people about Arizona's antelope, and tell them everything they wanted to know about the pronghorn population closest to Phoenix. All of the 60 plus people in attendance agreed that the program was a huge success and should be followed up by similar events in other areas.

Dale Longbrake, owner of the Horseshoe Ranch, was the perfect host and his barn provided a wonderfully rustic meeting place, not to mention the use of his other facilities. After breakfasting on coffee, juice, and donuts provided by the *Friends*, the guests were welcomed by Jimmy Mehen of the Arizona Antelope Foundation and Jake Fousek, the Arizona Game and Fish Department's local Wildlife Manager. The presentations that followed were outstanding. Richard Ockenfels, retired Antelope Biologist with AGFD, had put together a terrific power point presentation on the pronghorn's natural history, which was followed by Habitat Specialist Dana Wamecke, who summarized the pronghorn's

landscape and vegetative requirements on the Horseshoe Ranch, which the Department hopes to acquire. Then, after a short break, the participants were treated to a discussion of local pronghorn management problems led by Game Specialist Jon Hanna. Jon was followed by Melanie Tlzucek's invigorating talk on the pronghorn's local food and water needs. Then, prior to everyone participating in a picnic lunch, *yours truly* summed up the pronghorn's unique horn-growth, running, digestive, and other physiological capabilities



There are four pronghorn in the vicinity of the Horseshoe Ranch that are equipped with radio collars, thus allowing the group to go out antelope watching in the afternoon. Those that followed Bill Keebler got to see wild, free-roaming pronghorn in their natural habitat while those accompanying Jon Hanna got to participate in a "snipe hunt" for a radio collar that was emitting a mortality signal. We found the collar all right, but the antelope it belonged to had been reduced to a few wads of hair and a bone or two. It is truly amazing how fast a deceased pronghorn can disappear, and we will never know whether the animal had been poached or succumbed to one of the mountain lions that frequent the Horseshoe Ranch and its environs. All in all, everyone there had a great time!

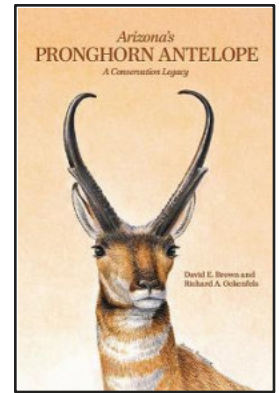
PRONGHORN BOOK

**“ARIZONA’S PRONGHORN ANTELOPE – A CONSERVATION LEGACY”
BY DAVID BROWN AND RICHARD OCKENFELS**

Get your copy today!

**Softcover copies: \$20.00 for AAF members; \$30.00 for non-members
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BOOK REVIEW BY JIM HEFFELFINGER

Pronghorn antelope (*Antilocapra americana*) is an incredibly unique species with an intriguing ancient and recent history. Arizona has played a key role in both the history and current conservation efforts of this species. *Arizona's Pronghorn Antelope* provides an easily read and digested package of natural history, management, and related topics for both biologists and laypersons. Dave Brown led the management of pronghorn and other game species in Arizona when many management protocols were being developed. Indeed, many management strategies used today came from those early efforts. Richard Ockenfels conducted research on Arizona pronghorn antelope for more than a decade and so these coauthors provide the book with the experience that comes from 2 people intimately familiar with this animal.

The book begins with a good description of the physical characteristics of the pronghorn. This uniqueness of structure and basic biology is important in understanding how they relate to their environment. The description of nomenclature and taxonomy that follows is easy to understand. Each previously defined subspecies is described in detail according to the literature. The authors agree the sometimes-vague descriptions of highly variable characters using a few individuals are not valuable. The more general discussion of subspecies that follows is very good. The authors discuss the desert ecotype and the adaptations they have for inhabiting some relatively harsh southwestern habitats. A specific mention of the northern versus southern pronghorn clades that have been defined with recent genetic work would have rounded out the discussion nicely and provided more range-wide perspective.

The pronghorn family has a varied and interesting evolutionary history, and I was pleased to see this included in the book on Arizona pronghorn. Everyone with interests in pronghorn needs to be exposed to the rich antilocaprid diversity starting in the Miocene and ending in the Pleistocene, with our pronghorn as the lone surviving member of this assemblage. I would have liked to see more mention of many of the other extinct pronghorn forms, but this would undoubtedly have been too much for readers wanting to read about Arizona pronghorn.

Pronghorn have very specific habitat requirements, and many factors are making open grasslands a rapidly declining re-

source in Arizona. The summary of habitat requirements is appropriately followed with a discussion of feeding behavior, diet, and water requirements. This book provides a great synopsis of everything cognoscible about habitat issues and sources of mortality that drive pronghorn population dynamics.

The discussion of early human interactions with pronghorn includes the debunking of several oft-repeated tales such as the use of fires to drive pronghorn to hunters and that primitive humans could have run pronghorn down to kill them or cause the extinction of the multitude of antilocaprid species. Humans did impact pronghorn populations later when technology allowed. Recent human exploitation of this species, followed by their restoration is one of the greatest success stories in wildlife conservation history. Past translocations that were so important to the restoration and conservation of this species are documented in detail. A figure with the Arizona statewide habitat evaluation led by coauthor Ockenfels would have been a useful graphic to show the distribution and relative quality of pronghorn habitat through the state.

Current management of this animal is explained. The section on predator control correctly brings out an important point. The success of predator control to increase fawn recruitment depends on the quality of the habitat. When habitat conditions are poor, fawns saved from the jaws of coyotes will simply succumb to other sources of mortality. Managers must use this information to more effectively wield this tool (and not use it when it will not work).

I own many state-specific books on single species. Even with their relatively narrow focus, these books are great resources that illustrate unique regional differences. Arizona pronghorn comprise 17 of the top 50 spots in the 2005 Boone & Crockett record book, making Arizona the epicenter of interest in hunting these animals.

Arizona's Pronghorn Antelope is a concise package of accurate biology and management information placed in a historical context. It is an excellent source of valuable information for anyone interested in this incredible animal. This is simply a must-read for all pronghorn hunters, wildlife enthusiasts, biologists, and land management agency personnel.

—James R. Heffelfinger, Arizona Game and Fish Department, Tucson, AZ 85745, USA

THE ROAD TO BARKERVILLE PART II

BY DAVID E. BROWN



This is part 2 in a series we began with the 2008 4th quarter Pronghorn. David again exposes the reader to a rare glimpse into Arizona's past and the subsequent changes brought on by "progress". While we wouldn't be here but for that progress...it took a toll on Arizona's pronghorn populations, in part because of it. If you didn't receive a copy of the last issue, you can find it on our website www.azantelope.org

On returning to our vehicle, John asked if I would like to interview Patsy Haydon whose "Haydon Ranch" was located nearby. Patsy, now reportedly in her 90's, was a daughter of one of the original homesteaders who had also been one of Teddy Roosevelt's "Rough Riders." She had gone to school in Barkerville and was said to have lived here since 1915. Patsy was as much of an institution around Antelope Peak as the landmark itself. I had met her as an adult woman when I was here 40 years ago, when, with her acquiescence, John Stair had shot one of her cows suffering from pink-eye. She had experienced the country firsthand, and hopefully, would have commentary worth remembering.

The original ranch, an old adobe perched on a hill next to a well that had formerly been a spring, had burned down. What remained consisted of a ramshackle shed and an old trailer anchored between a dying Mexican elder and a thriving mesquite. No fewer than four male cardinals were perched in the mesquite tree, two of them whistling vigorously. No sooner had we arrived than Patsy drove up in a weather-beaten Dodge pickup. Wearing a knitted shawl and cap, she made for an almost surreal appearance. Her old woman's eyes were the color of milk, and I feared that her sight might be impaired. But I need not have worried. Her eyesight, like her memory, was as keen as our own.

As was her wont and ranching tradition, she invited us into the trailer for coffee-cowboy style, that is to say a handful of coffee was dumped into water boiling over a gas stove. We would be picking grounds out of our teeth for an hour. She didn't of course remember me but she recalled John Stair well.

"As fine a game ranger as you would ever want to have," she said, and she had known a good number. John Windes too came in for high marks. She appreciated how he would come by to chat and see how things were going. Her recollections of early day Barkerville were crisp, and her memory of dates and events gener-

ally precise. Patsy remembered seeing pronghorn as a little girl, the animals disappearing about 1923. She also recalled seeing the transplanted animals, which she described as curious and semi-tame, persisting for a number of years after they were introduced in the 1940's. When pressed as to whether or not she had noticed any changes in the landscape, however, she replied in the negative—"the country always looking pretty much as it does now." This failure of memory, while difficult at first to comprehend, is not unlike urban dwellers being unable to recollect what used to occupy a site in their neighborhood where a new building is being erected. Few people take note of either day-to-day changes or similarities. Going from pronghorn and grama grass to javelin and turpentine bush in a 100 years time was just one of those changes.

Several weeks later, armed with historic photographs supplied by Cinnamon Hayes of the Oracle Historical Society, Ray Turner and I attempt to duplicate two 1908 photos depicting the plains between Oracle and Antelope Peak. Ray is a master at repeat photography and he has published several books showing how Southwestern landscapes have changed over time. Using the Black Mountains and Antelope Peak as a background, we creep along a now abandoned road once connecting Oracle to Barkerville. "Here," he says. "this is where the background and foreground are starting to match up."

And they do. After another hour or so of maneuvering, we get our photo matches. The contrasts are startling. What were formerly open grasslands are now brush-choked shrublands of mesquites, yuccas, white-thorn, and cacti, nearly devoid of perennial forbs and grasses. How had this come to be?

Unit 37B is a microcosm of Arizona's grassland history. Typically uneaten by large native herbivores, for millennia, Arizona's grasses enjoyed free reign until the coming of the settlers and their livestock. Come May and June, and the dry season prior to the summer monsoon, lightning fires fired the grasslands and swept away the invading brush. But then, with settlement, the grasses were cropped year after year, and a gradual change began to take place. No longer able to carry fire,

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1908 Photo courtesy of the Oracle Historical Society



April 29, 2002 Photo by Ray Turner and David Brown



1908 Photo courtesy of the Oracle Historical Society



April 29, 2002 Photo by Ray Turner and David Brown

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Arizona's grasses, often increasingly weakened by heavy grazing, imperceptibly gave way to their shrubby competitors. Not only was fire no longer able to keep the countryside free of sprouting shrubbery, the shrubs, aided by cattle disseminating their seeds, conspired to rob the weakened grasses of the soil's nutrients. A downward spiral from open grasslands to closed brushlands began, one that according to hundreds of Ray's photos, has slowed but not ceased. Nor is it likely to. As the grasses lost their hold on the topsoil, their brushy replacements proved inadequate to hold back the increasing cycle of erosion and channel-cutting of riparian areas. Shrubs and bare ground replaced the flowers and grama grasses that fed the sheep and cattle; evaporation rates increased. Raising sheep, and then cattle, became increasingly difficult, and most of the ranchers moved elsewhere. Grassland animals like pronghorn, scaled quail, and rufous-winged sparrows gave way to brushland-adapted species such as mule deer, Gambel's quail, and black-throated sparrows.

It is tempting to think that this process could be reversed – that the grasslands could be made to return and the county near Oracle Junction again support ranching and pronghorn. But logic dictates otherwise.

The mesquites and shrubs are now well established, and the grasses too sparse to carry a fire even if a "let-burn" policy could be implemented. It is also uncertain how much loss of topsoil has occurred and if the grasslands could return even given full protection. But mostly the problem is a lack of will and purpose. Neither grass for cattle nor forbs for pronghorn are a priority any more. The primary land management concerns in Unit 37B now involve zoning for planned communities and determining how many subdivisions could be accommodated. It would sure be fun to try, however, from a scientific standpoint, if for no other reason.

But the reality persists, that, like Barkerville, the grasslands surrounding Antelope Peak and Oracle Junction are destined to disappear forever. Their place will be taken not only by mesquites and burroweed but by condominiums and shopping centers. Before too many more years have passed, even the legacy of Patsy Haydon and the few other remaining homesteaders will be relegated to history books and the memories of an ever swindling few. These too will eventually be forgotten as will Barkerville and the pronghorn. Only the names of a road and peak will remain to mark their former presence.

RIFLE & OPTICS PACKAGE RAFFLES

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Remington Model 700 with camo stock in 7mm-08

Bushnell Elite Scope 4 x 12 – 40mm Ballistic Reticle

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Optics Tickets \$10 each or 3@\$25



Tickets for both raffles may be purchased online from our website, or watch for your Banquet mailer in May, which will also include tickets. Tickets will also be available at the banquet prior to the drawing. Need not be present to win.

www.azantelope.org

MY ANTELOPE HUNT

BY GRAY HOLBROOK

When my dad logged into the Arizona Game and Fish website his mouth just dropped when he saw the tags that I got drawn for. I got drawn for cow elk and antelope. This year was an awesome year for me, I am just 14 years old and I got drawn for an antelope and an elk tag in the same year! My dad put us both in for antelope with hopes to

start accumulating points to get drawn in a couple of years. But I was lucky. This was the third year I put in and finally got drawn for antelope. Now we had to start planning for our big hunt. My mom took me to the Arizona Antelope Foundation's Hunter's Clinic at Sportsman Warehouse. I learned quite a bit about hunting antelope,

but one of the biggest things I learned was that this was a "once in a lifetime hunt". I needed to be prepared because chances like this one don't happen very often.

My dad and I started preparing for the hunt. We reviewed maps, read reports on the Arizona Game and Fish website. I am on the Ben Avery Clay Crusher's Shooting Team so I practice with a shotgun at least once a week. But shotgun shooting won't help me much with an antelope on the prairie. My dad took me almost every week to practice shooting .243 Winchester, .270 Winchester, and our Weatherby .300 Winchester Magnum (for the elk hunt). We made plans to go out to the unit a few weekends before the hunt but my dad's work schedule and my school work didn't give us any time to do that. As time went by I was getting really excited and very nervous about the hunt.

My dad and I arrived a day before our hunt to set-up and scout around. We checked out our map and drove around on some roads to get a feel for the area. On our first day of the hunt we got up and headed out right before the sun came up. We spotted some ante-

lope and crawled around the ground to get closer. The only thing that that got us was skinned up knees. The knee pads my mom bought us lasted about an hour. The next day we hiked through a raven thinking it would help us get closer to the antelope without being on our hands and knees. We ran into the biggest mule deer that I have ever seen in my life, but no antelope.

The third day was about as eventful as the first two, to no avail. I came up empty.

September 7th 2008 was our last day to hunt. This was a big day for me; it was either now or wait for many years before getting drawn for another tag. My dad didn't want me to miss any more school than I had to so my



hunt was limited to four days. I really didn't want to go home empty handed. We tried some more places close to camp. While my dad was driving the car to the spot we thought looked good on our map, I had my .243 Winchester model 70 bolt action rifle and a box of 20 rounds at the ready just in case I saw something on the way there. When we got there we saw some pronghorn with some cows. So we got out of the car and started walking toward them. When we saw them I put my rifle on my shooting sticks, told my dad to give a range, he said 300 yards. So I aimed about an inch above the shoulder of the big buck. My heart was thudding and I tried to slow my breathing down. Then in a quiet moment I squeezed the trigger. It felt like I was aiming for an hour but in reality about 5 minutes. Then BOOM, I saw the buck just duck and he made a run for it. I aimed again and shot but the antelope just flinched and then ran away. After some time tracking the antelope and not finding any blood sign we decided to pack up our trailer and go home.

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So after being skunked about that 300 yard buck, we were heading home. I was upset but my dad said never to put away your gun until you are out of your unit. The closer we got to the unit line the more dread I felt in the pit of my stomach. Then just before we got to the unit line I saw an even bigger buck than the one I missed. I shouted for my dad to stop. My heart was racing, I felt like it was going to pound out of my chest. I pointed to where the buck was standing. I was pointing the buck out to my dad and by the time he figured out what I was pointing at I was climbing the fence, and loading my 30 year old rifle. By the time my dad got to where I was, I was already taking aim. The buck was a staggering 400 yards. So I took a deep breath and focused. Trying to relax I didn't want to miss this buck. It really was my last chance. I squeezed the trigger and fired. I focused again and fired. I kept firing several times until the buck was at the base of this hill. When I was on my last shot I hit the buck and he fell down. My dad and I were so excited, at least until the antelope got back up. I was out of rounds and by this time the tough buck was at 500 yards. Dumb-founded I ran back to the car, got my other rifle and about 50 rounds, and went back to the spot where I was

sitting. When I got back in to position I took aim and fired, miss, then I shot again, miss. I did this for another 3 shots, and then the monster buck went over the hill. So I got up, unloaded, and did a fast jog. By the time I got to where I could see him, he was only 15 yards away from me. He looked me straight in the eye. I aimed my rifle, a .270 Winchester model 70 bolt, for the lungs. First there was silence, then a loud BANG from the rifle, and lastly a thud of the monster buck hitting the ground. After gutting the buck my dad and I found where I shot it the first time. The first shot that hit him was a 1/2 an inch from the spine. The second shot shattered the shoulder blade. Finally, on my last day I was successful. What a thrill it was!

An antelope tag is hardest to get in the state. Only 35 tags were given away in my unit. The night before I shot the buck, my dad and I met a guy who hadn't been drawn for this tag since 1975. This was the 2nd big game animal I have taken. The year before I took a mule deer doe with the same rifle that ended the pronghorn's life. In October I took a cow elk with a Weatherby .300 Winchester magnum. I really appreciated the Arizona Antelope Foundation's Hunter's Clinic and all the work they do in preserving Arizona's antelope for young hunters like me.



UNIT 21 PRONGHORN MANAGEMENT UPDATES AND PENDING PROJECT FOR HERD CONSERVATION

BY JON HANNA, GAME SPECIALIST REGION VI

WITH EXCERPTS FROM THE STATEWIDE PRONGHORN OPERATIONAL PLAN

Surveys

Although Unit 21 received favorable winter precipitation in 2008, the pronghorn classification survey in August detected fawn to doe ratios of only 34:100, which fall midway within guidelines. Poor light conditions for spotting pronghorn during the two days of summer survey probably reduced sightability at that time, because the total number of animals observed was up for the fifth consecutive year during winter surveys.

Habitat

Unit 21 is located in central Arizona just north of Phoenix and encompasses 3,098 km² of mainly rugged terrain. Range conditions are improving in most of the pronghorn habitat of Unit 21. The Department has coordinated with the land management agencies (BLM, Tonto NF, and Prescott NF), and the Arizona Antelope Foundation (AAF) to improve habitat conditions through various projects within Unit 21. Projects have included fence modifications to wildlife standards, fence removals, water developments, development of broad-scale grassland maintenance burns, and juniper cuts. Habitat assessments and various research efforts have continued to focus on identifying pronghorn needs and developing management recommendations.

Arizona Antelope Foundation-Adopt-A- Ranch Program

The consistency of the Arizona Antelope Foundation to implement and complete habitat improvement projects

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Year	Summer Classification Survey fawn ratios	Winter Trend Total Survey Observations
2004	54	172
2005	38	165
2006	44	205
2007	64	200
2008	34	230

(Continued from page 10)

such as fence modifications and removals over the years have greatly improved the ability of pronghorn to move without being restricted by allotment fences. Efforts of the Arizona Antelope Foundation have been bolstered though the cooperation of the Horseshoe Ranch and their involvement in the Department's Adopt-A-Ranch Program. The union of these two groups has led to a partnership that may result in a future purchase of the Horseshoe Ranch to benefit many wildlife species, especially pronghorn.

Lethal Removal of Coyotes

In spring 2005, the Department initiated a three-year plan for coyote control within Unit 21 pronghorn habitat. Use of aerial gunning to improve pronghorn fawn recruitment through predator management should be considered when fawn ratios and population trends are consistently below guidelines and environmental variables are favorable. A decision was made after the most recent three-year effort to discontinue further aerial gunning efforts until conditions warrant reinitiating coyote removal.

Transplant history

During January 1997, 60 pronghorn were transplanted from Lamar, Colorado into Unit 21. Twenty-three of

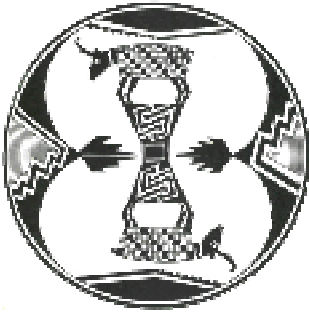
these were released in the southern range (Perry Mesa) and 37 were released in the northern range (Big Flat Well). All animals were ear-tagged. During December 1997, 77 pronghorn were transplanted from Parker, Utah into Unit 21. Forty-one of these were released in the southern range (Perry Mesa) and 36 were released in the northern range (Big Flat Well). All animals were ear-tagged. During December 1998, 101 pronghorn were transplanted from Parker, Utah into Unit 21. Fifty-nine of these were released in the southern range (Perry Mesa) and 42 were released in the northern range (Big Flat Well). All animals were ear-tagged and six were radio-collared. A survey flight one-month post release showed that two radio-collared pronghorn died. A total of 238 pronghorn were released over this two-year period in Unit 21. These transplants have been essential to the viability of this herd. During the 2000 survey one-third of the groups observed contained at least one ear-tagged pronghorn from these transplant efforts.

The most recent transplant occurred this December 2008, ten years since the last transplant. Our Department has continued to do as much as we can to strengthen this herd and transplants have been an important tool for our management. These pronghorn are from a herd in southern Utah where conflicts with pronghorn and private land issues require the pronghorn herd to be reduced through trapping efforts along with

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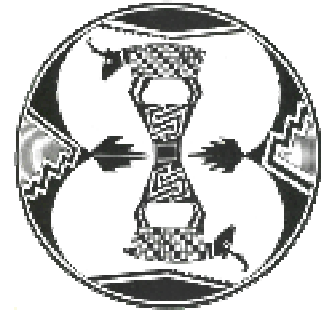


Figure 1. Pronghorn after their road trip from Utah were skeptical at first but quickly made their way out of their capture boxes to venture into their new home range.



SONORAN PRONGHORN

UPDATE



BY JILL BRIGHT AZ GAME & FISH
FEBRUARY 18, 2009

We did another release from the pen February 12-13. We released the last two 2-year old bucks and one large yearling buck from the south half of the pen. These animals were darted, and flown by helicopter to a recovery pen in the Growler Valley. All three were found with telemetry on February 14th. Two were on STAC and one had moved back east over Charlie Bell Pass to the vicinity of the pen. All were alive, but had not joined up with wild pronghorn. We attempted to move the adult buck out of the north half, but he would not cooperate with our darting attempts. We plan to try again later this week.

On February 14th, we also attempted to move one buck who was released from the pen in January. He moved north of the Crater Mountains into target areas on the BMGR that are not monitored for pronghorn. Unfortunately, he had a bad reaction to the drugs and died during the transport.

We located most of the other surviving animals that have been released from the pen this year. One female and one male are still in Childs Valley, north of the pen. One male crossed through the Growler Mountains and is on Organ Pipe NM. We have one female who we cannot find, and suspect a radio collar malfunction.

On February 12th we documented our first fawns in the pen this year. One doe in the south half has 2 fawns; it is too early to determine sex. Since then, we have also documented at least one fawn with another doe in the south and one in the north.

Status of Pronghorn in Pen
 (M = Male, F = Female)

	Wild pronghorn put into the pen	2005 recruitment	2006 recruitment	2007 recruitment	2008 recruitment	2009 recruitment	Total in Pen
NORTH HALF							
In Pen	5F, 1M	2F		3F	5F, 7M	1 fawn	
Released		4M	3M	4M, 1F	1F		
From south half						1M	25
SOUTH HALF							
In Pen	5F		2F	2F	4F, 6M	3 fawns	
Released			2M	1F, 2M	2M		
From wild						1M	23
							48

2008 Released Males: One of these males is still alive on STAC; the other one is still alive in Mexico.

2007 Released Males: Nothing new to report.

(Continued on page 13)

(Continued from page 12)

Water Projects: Nothing new to report.

Forage Enhancements: We went to Granite Mountains forage plot. It is still green from winter rains. One major valve broke over the winter, which we will repair before we can irrigate there.

Other Projects: We are still moving forward with the preliminary steps for establishing a second population, working on NEPA with the consultant.

Wild Pronghorn: We continue to monitor the wild population. We now have 16 radio collars throughout the herd.



AAF RECEIVES CONSERVATION AWARD

On February 6, 2009, the Arizona Chapter of The Wildlife Society awarded its *Conservation Award* to the Arizona Antelope Foundation. The Arizona Chapter of The Wildlife Society is an organization of professional wildlife biologists dedicated to promoting sound management and conservation of Arizona's wildlife resources. The *Conservation Award* is given to a person or persons not directly employed as a wildlife biologist, or to an organization not directly involved in wildlife management, that has contributed significantly to the conservation of wildlife and/or its habitat in Arizona.

The AAF motto is "Libertas ad Vagor" or Freedom to Roam. Working to achieve our motto, volunteers from the AAF have spent thousands of hours improving pronghorn habitat through volunteer labor. AAF volunteers have removed or modified many miles of fence, improving fence permeability and habitat accessibility and removing hazards to wildlife. AAF volunteers have significantly contributed to the restoration of over 40,000 acres of grassland habitat by removing encroaching junipers. AAF volunteers of all ages give up their weekends to work on these projects using nothing more than hand tools, brute strength and a passion for giving something back. AAF has also funded

many projects including native seeding, juniper encroachment, prescribed fire, and pronghorn research.

The AAF's volunteers and funding have made a difference to habitat conservation for Arizona's pronghorn and other wildlife.



Past President Tice Supplee accepts the Conservation Award On behalf of the AAF, from Brian Dykstra, President of the Arizona Chapter of The Wildlife Society.

17TH ANNUAL HUNTER CLINIC

JUNE 16TH

SPORTSMAN'S WAREHOUSE I-17 & YORKSHIRE IN PHOENIX

Draw results should be available soon, but whether you have an antelope tag or not, you are welcome to come to the Sportsman's Warehouse on June 16th to increase your knowledge of pronghorn and pronghorn hunting! We plan on having another great slate of speakers to give you pointers on what to do, and why! And Game & Fish Wildlife Managers from various units will be on hand to share information on your particular game unit.

If you're an AAF member, come out and visit your fellow AAF members, it won't cost you anything. Non-members will be asked to contribute a nominal donation which can be applied toward AAF membership through 2010.

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.

HUNTING SHOTS



Rich Forie using, Zebu the cow decoy New Mexico



Brian Forie New Mexico Antelope

THANKS TO TONY WHITE FOR SHARING THESE PHOTOS!

(Continued from page 11)

hunting. The pronghorn we received for Unit 21 were captured on December 11 and released on the morning of December 12 after an overnight drive. Twenty pronghorn were released in the northern portion of the unit and 20 in the southern (Figures 1 and 2). The pronghorn were in great condition with relatively little hair removal from the capture effort, and, as an added bonus, the pronghorn stayed grouped together as they left the capture boxes (Figure 3). Nine of these pronghorn were radio-collared and will be located by telemetry to document initial movements and survival.

I-17 Overpass

Many of our current and ongoing management practices and strategies are benefiting the viability of this pronghorn herd. Over the years several studies have documented why's and how's of conserving this pronghorn herd. Several papers and reports have been written over the years about the status of this herd and its habitat such as: Mortality and Home Range of Pronghorn Fawns in Central Arizona, Ockenfels, et al 1992; Factors Affecting Adult Pronghorn Mortality Rates in Central Arizona, Ockenfels, et al 1994; Home Ranges, Movement Patterns, and Habitat Selection of Pronghorn in Central Arizona, Ockenfels, et al 1994; Juniper Densities Relative to Pronghorn Use in Central Arizona, Alexander and Ockenfels 1994; Annual Performance Reports, and Annual Hunt Recommendations. Through years of pronghorn survey, research and habitat assessments, we have learned much about pronghorn home ranges, distribution patterns, seasonal migrations, habitat selection, fawn bedsite selection, mortality factors, movement corridors and movement barriers. From this wealth of knowledge we continue to develop and implement meaningful management strategies

This is not a conclusive list, yet brings home the point that pronghorn in Unit 21 have been rigorously studied and monitored. When we consider all the hard work and effort by agency personnel, interest groups, and landowners that has gone into managing this herd over the many years to conserve this herd for future generations, we should remember that a few dedicated souls can accomplish much. And we should commit to continuing to work together to achieve even more.

The Unit 21 pronghorn population is isolated from nearby populations within Yavapai and Coconino counties due to highway barriers. Interstate 17 separates pronghorn in Unit 21 from those in Unit 19A in the Orme Ranch area and in Unit 20A in the Cordes area. No bridges along this route appear large and open enough for pronghorn to pass under. The bridge at the Agua Fria River has some chance as a passage between



Figure 2. Pronghorn safely left their capture boxes with the assistance of Arizona Game and Fish Personnel.

Units 19A and 21 if the mesquite and catclaw thickets on both sides are cleared and the slopes lessened by grading.

Because Unit 21 is basically a closed system for pronghorn, this becomes the limiting factor to the long term viability of this herd. Upon reviewing all the previous hard work and coordination efforts, a highway overpass connecting the pronghorn herd from Unit 21 and Units 19A and 20A is likely to have the most lasting influence on pronghorn management in our lifetime. Now is the time to work collaboratively with Arizona Department of Transportation so they can plan administratively and financially for a movement corridor to secure the pronghorn's future in central Arizona.

(Continued on page 16)

(Continued from page 15)

Article follow up - On December 29th 2008 a telemetry flight to locate recently released radio collared pronghorn found them alive and running with their new neighbors. These radio-collared pronghorn were located within two miles from their release sites. Three radio-collared pronghorn were located in the northern portion of Unit 21 and three in the southern portion of Unit 21. A visual at three of the collared pronghorn locations revealed that they had herded with local pronghorn and were in groups of 15, 16, and 17. One radio-collared pronghorn could not be located due to high pitch frequency feedback and other transmission interference.



Figure 3. The pronghorn stayed in close groups while leaving their capture boxes and looked in great condition to start their new life in Unit 21.



6TH ANNUAL FUNDRAISING BANQUET EL ZARIBAH SHRINE PHOENIX

Live auction, Silent Auction and Raffles for Art, great Hunts, Fishing trips, firearms, hunting, Fishing and Camping Gear, and a great raffle for the ladies

The Commissioner Special Antelope, Bear, and Javelina tags will be auctioned as well.

Last year was a sell-out so watch your mail and our website for details!



AAF BOARD MEETINGS

We have changed the location of our monthly Board meetings. The public is invited to join us the second Monday of each month, 6:30 p.m., now at El Zaribah Shrine, which is located at 552 N. 40th St. in Phoenix (just south of the 202)

AGUA FRIA OPEN SPACE CONFERENCE

Saturday May 2, 2009
Arcosanti, Cordes Junction

The Agua Fria Open Space Alliance (AFOSA) is interested in resource conservation in the upper Agua Fria River Basin. The upper Basin extends from Glassford Hill to Black Canyon City, and lies between the Black Hills in the east and the Bradshaw Mountains in the West. For more information visit their website:
<http://aguafri.aopenspace.org>

VOLUNTEER OPPORTUNITY

May 1-3
Southeastern Arizona
Double Circle Ranch on Eagle Creek

Several prescribed burns, including the NO Bar burn the AAF helped fund, have taken place on this ranch, located 30 miles north of Morenci. This is creating wildlife corridors which all game will use. There are several herds of antelope right now- anywhere from a solitary buck to 30 in a herd.

There are miles of old, down fence wire, burn damaged wire, and piled up old rolls of wire on the Double Circle. The owners have scheduled a week-end wire rolling party to try to clean up the area and improve this wildlife habitat.

Volunteers are invited to spend a weekend camping on the ranch and help with the wire rolling. The ranch will provide 3 free meals a day- plain country cooking - but plenty of it. Volunteers would need to bring their own camping gear.

This project is NOT sponsored by the AAF so anyone interested in participating or needing additional information must contact Wilma Jenkins at the ranch directly. They don't have reliable phone service, so contact is by email only to doublecircularanch@hughes.net.

THANKS

To Jen Anderson and her Girl Scout Troop #9 for assisting with the mailing of our project reminder postcards.

SUPER RAFFLE

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

WWW.ARIZONABIGGAMESUPERRAFFLE.COM

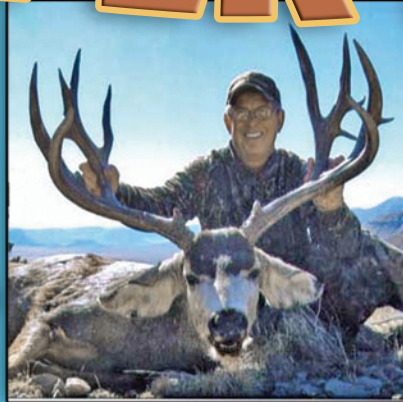
DID YOU KNOW?

Charles Lindbergh was not only a famous aviator but an antelope hunter. This photo was sent by Alejandro Espinoza and shows Lindbergh with a pronghorn bagged on the La Encantada Ranch in Coahuila, Mexico. The date of the photo is unknown but was probably taken sometime in the early 1930s when Charles was courting Ann, his wife to be who was the daughter of the American ambassador to Mexico. According to Barbara Higdon of San Antonio, Texas, the La Encantada Ranch was then owned by an American, a situation described in the article, "Hunting in the Land of Pita" published in the *Pronghorn* in 2006.



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(A)

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

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BLACK BEAR	365 Day Season • Per Commission Order 29		\$5 each	
BUFFALO	365 Day Season • Per Commission Order 29		\$20 each	
COUES WHITETAIL	365 Day Season • Per Commission Order 29		\$10 each	
DESERT BIGHORN	365 Day Season • Per Commission Order 29		\$25 each	
ELK	365 Day Season • Per Commission Order 29		\$25 each	
JAVELINA	365 Day Season • Per Commission Order 29		\$5 each	
MOUNTAIN LION	365 Day Season • Per Commission Order 29		\$5 each	
MULE DEER	365 Day Season • Per Commission Order 29		\$20 each	
TURKEY Gould's or Merriams	365 Day Season • Per Commission Order 29		\$5 each	
SWAROVSKI OPTICS RAFFLE STS80 Spotting Scope • 15x56 SLC Binoculars • Range Finder 10x42 EL Binoculars • 4x12x50 Rifle Scope			\$10 each	
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SPORTSMAN'S CALENDAR OF UPCOMING EVENTS!

<i>WHAT?</i>	<i>WHEN?</i>	<i>WHERE?</i>
The Arizona Antelope Foundation	April 13 6:30 PM	The Phoenix Zoo
Board Meetings	May 11 6:30 PM	455 N. Galvin Parkway
	June 8 6:30 PM	
2009 AAF Work Projects	May 16-17	Yavapai Ranch
	August 8-9	Anderson Mesa
	October 17-18	Unit 21
The Wildlife Conservation Council	April 28 6:30 PM	3001 N. 35th Ave.
Board Meetings	May 26 6:30 PM	Phoenix
	June 23 6:30 PM	
AAF Clinic	June 16, 2009	Sportsman's Warehouse, Phoenix
AAF Banquet	July 18, 2009	El Zaribah Shrine, Phoenix