



PRONGHORN

4th Quarter 2014
Volume 20 Number 4



ARIZONA ANTELOPE FOUNDATION, INC.

2014 BOARD

2014 Executive Committee

President	Shane Stewart
Vice President	Glen Dickens
Secretary	Eddy Corona
Treasurer	Jodi Stewart

Directors

Dave Cruce	Tice Supplee
Terry Schupp	Connie Taylor
Al Sue	Mike Wondrash

Board of Governors

Pete Cimellaro '93	Warren Leek '01
Jim McCasland '94	Bill Keebler '02
Mike Cupell '95	Jerry Guevin '03
Nancy Lewis '96	Jim Unmacht '04 & '05
David Brown '97	Dave Laird '06
Joe Bill Pickrell '98	Brian George '07
Don Johnson '99	Tice Supplee '08
Bill McLean '00	Jimmy Mehen '09

INFO@AZANTELOPE.ORG
WWW.AZANTELOPE.ORG

IN THIS ISSUE

Page 3	President's Message
Page 4	Sportsmen Values Mapping Project
Page 5	Highways 82/83 Fence Project
Page 8	Altar Valley Grassland Restoration
Page 9	Upcoming Events
Page 10	Archives - Outrunning Extinction
Page 12	Sonoran Pronghorn Update
Page 14	Hunting Success
Page 16	Youth Hunt Story
Page 17	4FRI Update
Page 18	AZGF Commission Nominees
Page 18	Amazon Smile Benefits AAF
Page 18	Upcoming Pronghorn Capture
Page 18	Arizona Big Game Super Raffle
Page 19	Membership

AAF Mission Statement:

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



ON OUR COVER

From our archives, this beautiful photo was taken at the Malpai Co-operative Fence Project September 29, 2012 by Betty Dickens

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

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

PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

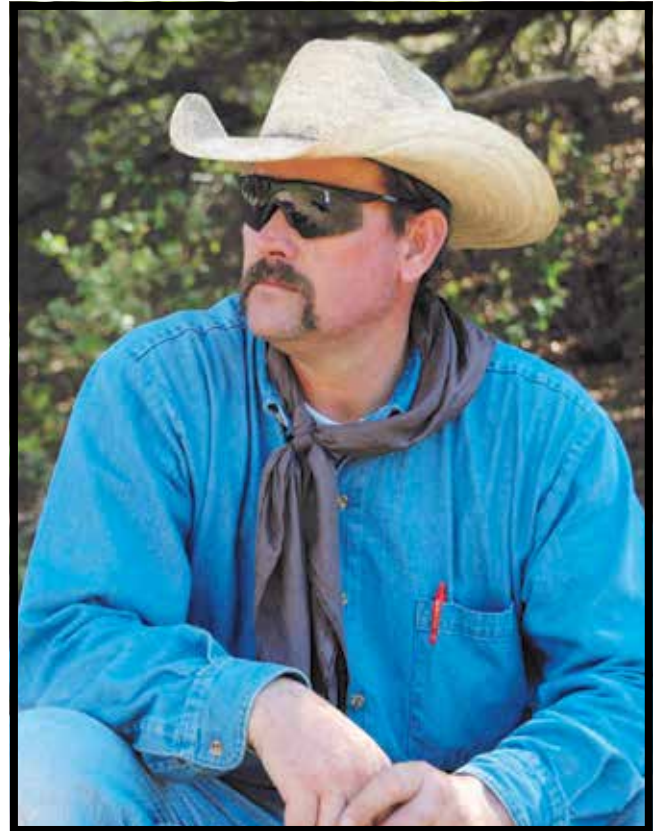
Happy Holidays! Hopefully this letter finds you in good health and surrounded by good family and great friends. 2014 has been a very productive and challenging for the AAF, and due in large part to our active board of volunteers and involved membership we have accomplished many good things for Arizona Antelope and their habitat.

Our habitat enhancement and scientific projects were successful again this year in bettering antelope habitat and we are looking forward to the work we have planned in 2015. These projects would not have been possible without the tireless efforts of the volunteers who selflessly give of their time to help complete them. We were successful in modifying miles and miles of fencing, conducting range land restoration by eliminating invasive plant species, conducting scientific movement studies, relocation efforts and working hand in hand with ranchers and federal agencies to develop sound programs that benefit all species both plant and animals that occupy our great ranges.

I would encourage you to stay informed on issues that effect wildlife and habitat. Engage your politicians, and let them know what matters to you. Increasingly wildlife management is coming under attack from environmentalists who are set on changing the way we manage wildlife. These moves are largely based on emotions and rarely come with any fact based knowledge or scientific background. We will work to stay actively engaged and informed on issues that effect our ability to sustain our wildlife and habitat.

We recently held our annual meeting and elected our slate of officers for the 2015 year. I was extremely honored to have been nominated and then elected to serve a fifth term as President. I am also extremely grateful for the other officers and board members who were gracious enough to "throw in their hats" and volunteer to serve. They are the heart and soul of this organization and I am constantly in awe of the breadth of knowledge our board has! I look forward to spending another year learning from them!

I would encourage you to renew or upgrade your membership. Arizona's Pronghorn are in jeopardy now more than ever. The Arizona Antelope Foundation is working diligently to preserve this noble species. We cannot further this mission without the financial support of our membership. This is why we need you to do your part, and renew your membership in the AAF. Why not consider upgrading to a Family or Sustaining Membership.



You can also make a long term commitment and become a Life member. This commitment will eliminate future renewal responsibilities and will add much needed funding to our Permanent Endowment. We will continue to do our part, but we need your help!

As the AAF moves into 2015, I am excited at the possibilities we have before us to make a difference in the betterment of one of the states greatest resources. We will continue to remain steadfast and diligent in our efforts to ensure Arizona's pronghorn herds have a voice.

May your Holidays be pleasant and bountiful, and may you hear the call of conservation.

"LIBERTAS AD VAGOR".... FREEDOM TO ROAM

Shane Stewart

President

602-616-0383

shane@ssiaz.com

ARIZONA SPORTSMEN NEEDED TO HELP CONSERVE STATE'S BEST PLACES FOR HUNTING AND FISHING

BY JOHN HAMILL, TRCP

TRCP Sportsmen Values Mapping Project to compile sportsmen's input on most valuable places for hunting and fishing in the Grand Canyon State.

Arizona sportsmen will have an opportunity to help conserve their favorite public hunting and fishing destinations by participating in the Sportsmen Values Mapping Project, a statewide effort being launched this month by the Theodore Roosevelt Conservation Partnership in cooperation with Arizona sportsmen's groups and the Arizona Game and Fish Department.

A national initiative begun by the TRCP in 2007, the Sportsmen Values Mapping Project captures input provided by sportsmen to map the West's most important places to hunt and fish. Identifying these areas is the first step in developing long-term strategies to ensure their responsible management and continued use for hunting, angling and other compatible uses.

"Some of the most valued public hunting and fishing areas in Arizona are at-risk because of deteriorating habitat conditions, limited access and increased development pressures," said TRCP Arizona Field Representative John Hamill. "We are seeking the help of sportsmen to identify lands that are cherished for their hunting and fishing values, and where the conservation and restoration of habitats, and the enhancement of public access should be a priority."

The Sportsmen Values Maps will be used to inform decisions about public land management and public access on lands important to hunting and fishing. The project has been endorsed by the Arizona Sportsmen for Wildlife Conservation, an alliance of 23 Arizona sportsmen's groups, and the Arizona Game and Fish Department, which is developing a computer application to efficiently gather and synthesize the data.

"Much of my career has been focused on identifying critical fish and wildlife habitat," continued Hamill, who has 30-plus years' experience working with federal and state agencies and stakeholder groups to resolve fish and wildlife management issues. "While this information is valuable, we're missing a crucial element: data on the areas that **sportsmen** value most for hunting and fishing. A variety of factors are important in determining a high-valued hunting or fishing area such as how far the area is from your home, the likelihood of draw-

ing a tag there, the likelihood of success, or whether it's a place traditionally visited by sportsmen."

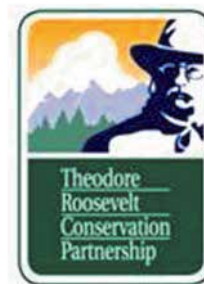
To gather sportsmen input, TRCP will host a series of workshops in communities throughout Arizona in January-May 2015. A preliminary list of communities includes:

- | | |
|------------------|---------------------------|
| 1. Tucson | 9. Kingman |
| 2. Oro Valley | 10. Page |
| 3. Safford | 11. Cottonwood/Camp Verde |
| 4. Sierra Vista | 12. Payson |
| 5. Mesa | 13. Prescott |
| 6. Glendale | 14. Pinetop/Show Low |
| 7. North Phoenix | |
| 8. Yuma | |

Once the Arizona workshops are completed, sportsmen's input will be assembled in a geographic information system (GIS), where it can be overlaid with maps of critical habitat, migration routes, land ownership, etc. to develop conservation and management strategies, both short term and long term.

The first Sportsmen Values Mapping workshop will be held in mid-January 2015 in Flagstaff, Arizona. Volunteers are needed to help facilitate the workshops. Contact John Hamill at jhamill@trcp.org to learn more about volunteer opportunities or for more information about the project.

For more information on the TRCP visit our website at www.trcp.org.



Inspired by the legacy of Theodore Roosevelt, the TRCP is a coalition of organizations and grassroots partners working together to preserve the traditions of hunting and fishing.

HIGHWAYS 82 & 83 FENCE MODIFICATIONS

3-YEAR ACCORD REACHED

BY GLEN DICKENS, AAF VICE PRESIDENT AND PROJECT/GRANTS MANAGER

AAF Field Project Manager John Millican and Brad Fulk, Jeff Gagnon, Scott Sprague and Ray Schweinsburg of the Arizona Game and Fish Department (AGFD) held a pivotal working session in mid-October with the Arizona Department of Transportation (ADOT) Tucson Regional office with regards to the AAF's 6-year plan to improve pronghorn connectivity on the entire Sonoita Plains encompassing portions of game management units 34A/B and 35A/B. An overview was presented in a slide show format as well as large GIS printed maps prepared by the AAF's GIS Manager Caroline Patrick. These were used to explain to the ADOT staff all of our previous fence modification project work on the Sonoita Plains and to formally request permission to modify up to six miles of right-of-way (ROW) fencing over the next three years 2015-17 on Highways 83 and 82 (note color map on the following pages).

A subsequent field review attended by John Millican and AAF Vice President/Grants/Projects Manager Glen Dickens was held on November 4th with ADOT personnel to review exactly where we proposed to modify existing ROW fences from a 5-strand all barbed wire fence to a 4-strand smooth bottom wire set at a pronghorn friendly 16 inches from the ground. In addition one site where we want to remove mesquites in the ROW to enhance two known existing pronghorn crossings was also reviewed. At the end of the morning all suggested reaches of fence line modifications and mesquite removal were approved. The principle credit for walking and documenting all of these miles of cross-

ing zones goes primarily to the AAF's National Fish and Wildlife Foundation (NFWF) funded contract project staffers John Millican Field Manager and Carolyn Patrick, GIS Manager with able assistance/advice from both local AGFD District Wildlife Managers Matt Braun (unit 35) and Aaron Miller (unit 34) and AGFD Senior Research Biologist Scott Sprague.

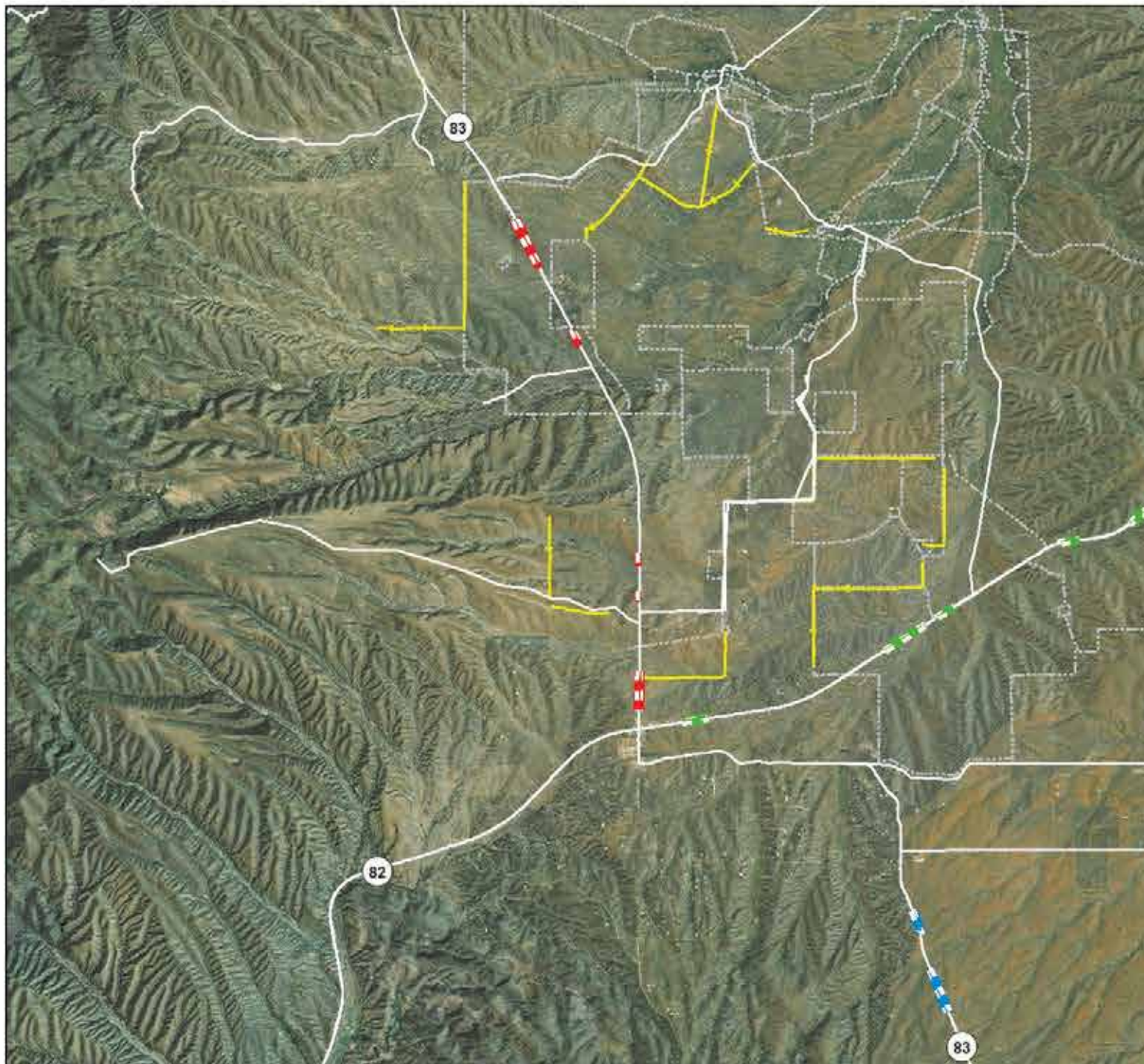
These last three major fencing projects on the Sonoita Plains represent the "Capstone" for the AAF's connectivity efforts to permit free and unfettered pronghorn access from private property east of HW 83 across the Bureau of Land Management (BLM) Las Cienegas Natural Grasslands then south of HW 82 and east of the Upper Elgin Road on private and BLM lands and south again to private lands on the Babocomari Ranch and southeast again to the west pasture of Fort Huachuca, a distance of some 20 air miles. At the close of the spring of 2017 project work on HW 83 south, some 50 miles of fences will have been modified to the benefit of Pronghorn by the AAF and cooperators over the 6-year project period.


This effort is largely funded and driven by some \$510,000 from three NFWF grants received by the AAF beginning in 2012, again in 2013 and a third for 2015-17 as explained in previous *Pronghorn's* and in support of the AAF's long-term "*Southeastern Arizona Grasslands Pronghorn Initiative*". The grant has a goal of improving up to 100,000 acres of "Pronghorn habitat connectivity". All NFWF funding must be matched dollar for dollar by hard matching funds and/or in-kind funding. For example all of the volunteer hours and




HW 83 Fence zone to be modified at April project".

(Continued on page 8)





AAF/NFWF Modified Fences, 2011-2017



- ▶ AAF Enhanced Fencelines
- ▶ Ranch Constructed, Pronghorn Standard
- Youth Grant SCC Modified Fences
- - - Private/Pronghorn Friendly


Future AAF-ADOT Planned Fence Modifications

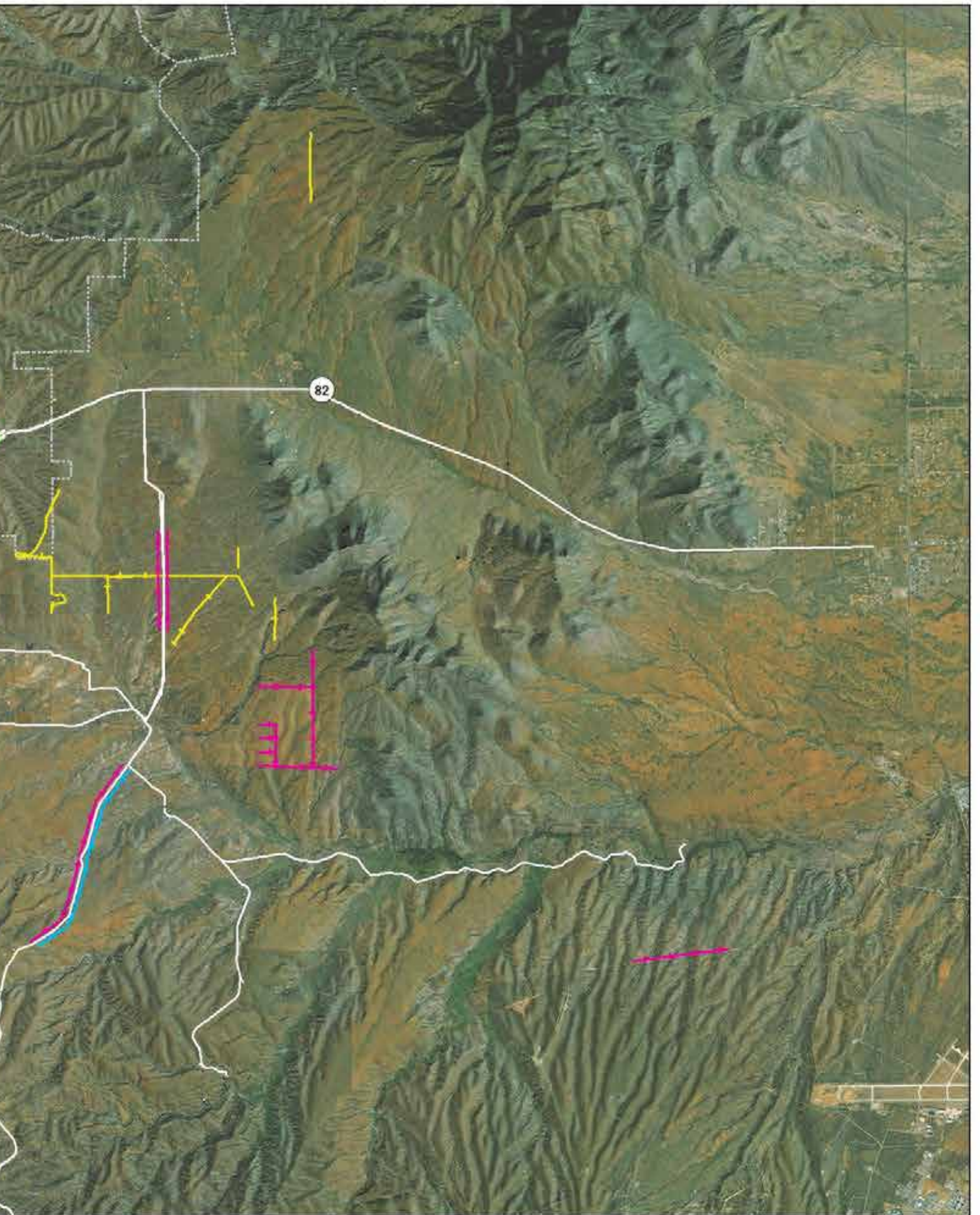
- - - 2015
- - - 2016
- - - 2017

0 2.5 5

————— Miles

N





mileage driven by volunteers to reach the April 2015 project will be used for in-kind match at the rate of \$21 per hour worked and .14 cents per mile driven.

Our first priority project will be to modify all of the fences on HW 83 from the Empire Ranch road south to Sonoita noted in red on the map. The dates/work hours for the 2.5 day project will be from noon on Friday April 17th to noon on Sunday April 19th. The majority of the work and thus the most volunteers needed will be conducted on Saturday April 18th. Dinners and breakfasts will be provided by the AAF from Friday night

through Sunday morning. A camp site will be located east of the project work on BLM lands. Our NFWF grant will be picking up the cost of the wire/stays/clips as well as the contract cost of removing the mesquites in March of either 2015 or 2016. We will then schedule fence modifications on HW 82 in April 2016 and HW 83 south of Elgin School in April 2017.

As the AAF's Projects Manager I do hope you can put the weekend on your calendar and help us make a permanent historic difference in cross highway connectivity for the Pronghorn of the Sonoita Plains!!

ALTAR VALLEY GRASSLAND PRONGHORN RESTORATION PROJECT WORKGROUP

BY GLEN DICKENS, AAF VICE PRESIDENT AND PROJECT/GRANTS MANAGER

On November 25th myself, AAF's National Fish and Wildlife Foundation grant funded GIS Manager Caroline Patrick and 18 other participants attended a kick-off meeting of the Altar Valley Grassland/Pronghorn Restoration working group held in Tucson. This meeting was organized by Kristin Terpening, a Tucson Arizona Game and Fish Habitat Specialist at the direction of Sector Wildlife Manager Supervisor Brad Fulk and Karen Kilma and Mark Frieberg AGFD District Wildlife Managers.

In addition to AGFD and AAF representatives the meeting included participants from the Buenos Aires Wildlife Refuge (BANWR), Pima County Natural Resources Parks and Recreation, Arizona State Land Department, Altar Valley Alliance and private landowners/ranchers.

The working group has as its overall goal to bring together all the government agencies and non-government organizations for structured approaches to the restoration/enhancement of Altar Valley grasslands and wildlife populations. This first scoping meeting discussed the BANWR habitat management history with regards to fire management, mesquite removal and wildlife water development. Current Pronghorn population status and distribution and opportunities and limitations with regards to funding availability and restrictions and landownership implications.

AAF was able to aid the progress of the group with a decision for the AAF's GIS Manager Caroline Patrick to pull together

pertinent layers of information. For example, ownership, burns, mesquite treatment and current and historical pronghorn distribution. This data is to be presented at the next meeting planned for early February to review these draft maps and begin to narrow down key focus areas for future grassland improvements.

The present population of Pronghorn in this area is estimated at 25 animals and many issues will need to be resolved and worked on to provide the opportunity for pronghorn population supplements to occur down the road in 6 to 8 years. That said our thanks goes out to the AGFD Tucson Regional personnel for their continued commitment to improving Pronghorn habitat availability.



Save the Date!

May 2, 2015

Annual Fundraising Banquet Wild Horse Pass Hotel & Casino

***MARK YOUR CALENDAR
2015 PROJECTS***

**April 17-19 HW 83 Empire Ranch
June 27th Prescott or Unit 7
August 15th Unit 7
September 19th Bonita**



FROM THE PRONGHORN ARCHIVES

FROM VOLUME 4, NUMBER 2, SPRING 1996

OUTRUNNING EXTINCTION BY JIM HEFFELFINGER

There are two kinds of animals; extinct and extant. Extinct animals no longer roam the earth, while those that are extant have survived the many challenges Mother Nature threw at their ancestors. Animals which are still with us are the survivors who were successful in running the gauntlet of evolution. Those species making it to safety at the end of the gauntlet rarely come through the ordeal unchanged, both physically and behaviorally. These changes or adaptations, allowed some species to survive changing environments while others perished.

Toward the end of the Pleistocene Period, about 10,000 years ago, great sheets of ice covered much of the northern portion of North America. For some groups of animals, this environmental change drove an icy wedge between the extinct and the extant.

With this glacial period came mass extinctions of many species of large mammals across the North American continent. Those that survived this period did so because they were able to adapt. These adaptations allowed each species to occupy a particular habitat and to do something different than the other animals, allowing it to live with minimal competition for food and shelter.

It has been said that, throughout evolution, prey species avoided extinction by adopting one of three strategies: 1) they got armor (turtles, armadillos), 2) they got big (horses, hippos), or 3) they got out of the way! The present-day pronghorn antelope is perhaps the finest example of the latter. Originally there were dozens of species in the pronghorn family, Antilocapridae. Only one species survived the rigors of evolution.

The modern pronghorn survived the Ice Age because of the many adaptations it acquired in its race through the millennia. The adaptation for which pronghorn are most famous is their speed. There are many incredible stories of documented speeds in excess of 60 miles per hour. Regardless of their exact maximum speed, they are un-



Photo by Richard Ockenfels

doubtedly the fastest land mammal on the continent. Not only are they unbelievably fast, but they also seem to love speed and are nature's original speed demons ~ the teenagers of the mammal locomotion.

How or why did they develop such great speed if there are no North American predators which possess comparable running abilities? For the answer, we must look at some of the predators which did not make it out of the Ice Age alive. Was there an extremely fast predator which co-evolved with the pronghorn and chased them through evolution, nipping at their heels?

Indeed there was. This critter is known as *Acinonyx trumani* in Latin. It has no common name in English because it became extinct in the late Pleistocene Period while humans were too busy running from large predators to spend much time with names. *Acinonyx trumani* was North America's Version of the Cheetah, which is the fastest land mammal on earth. With a predator like that, the slowest individuals in each herd were removed from the population. Survivors didn't have to outrun the predator, just their companions. Pronghorn became faster.

To generate and maintain such speed, pronghorn evolved long legs with a strong bone structure. Large lungs, windpipe, and heart allow for rapid delivery of a

(Continued on page 11)

massive amount of oxygen to the muscles, supplying fuel to this turbo-charged ruminant rocket. Research has shown that pronghorn have three times the rate of oxygen consumption of similarly sized animals.

The “pronghorn” portion of the name comes from the forward projecting prong on each horn which probably serves as a defensive structure to deflect the horns of other males during fights over breeding territories. The horns themselves are unique to the animal kingdom. True antelope have horn sheaths over a bony core and never shed their horn sheaths, while members of the deer family annually produce and shed their antlers. The pronghorn splits the difference; it has a horn sheath covering a bony core but sheds the horn sheath each year shortly after the rut. Why this adaptation proved useful is anyone’s guess, but we could speculate that, if the males “throw down their weapons” as soon as the rut is over, it may reduce strife and stress when they begin combining into large winter groups following the breeding season.

Pronghorn have also evolved incredibly large eyes (the better to see you with, my dear). The pronghorn’s eyes are about two inches in diameter, even larger than a steer weighing ten times as much. Not only are the eyes large, but they are also set out from the skull to give them nearly 360 degrees of peripheral vision.

Many sources quote the oft-repeated “fact” that pronghorn have 8-power eyesight, that is, objects appear 8 times closer than for a human’s eyes. This is commonly believed to be true because frequently, when you find a pronghorn through your binoculars, it is already looking at you. I have always wondered whether a 2-inch eyeball could actually produce that kind of magnification by itself without an extension tube of some sort. I’m not convinced their optical superiority is due to a significantly greater magnification, but rather a more acute awareness of subtle changes in their open grassland habitat.

We humans generally operate within a 100-yard radius, whether we are in our backyards or driving a car. Prong-

horn spend their whole lives operating in at least a 1-mile radius. They pay attention to detail because their lives depend on it. Regardless of the magnification factor, they always notice that the bush with the broad head sticking out of it is getting closer to them. Humans generally won’t notice potentially dangerous situations when they are still 1 mile away, but such vigilance is a matter of survival to the pronghorn.

Part of this long distance vigilance is a function of the habitat to which pronghorn have adapted. The deer’s strategy for survival is to hide in the brush and timber, using its ears and nose to detect approaching predators. Pronghorn adopted the opposite strategy ~ they stand out in the open and use their incredible eyesight. Anyone who has been a predator of both animals appreciates the different strategies required when attempting to prey on each species. Pronghorn will make every effort to keep potential threats in sight. This instinctive “need” to see danger gets them into trouble sometimes when they

approach foreign objects lying in the grass. Curiosity kills more than cats.

Gregariousness, the habit of staying in large groups, is another predator avoidance strategy they developed. More animals in the group means the chances are much greater that one of them will spot danger. Sneaking up on a group of pronghorn is like trying to defeat 15 to 20 overlapping surveillance cameras.

Pronghorn have also adapted to a remarkable range of temperature extremes. Hollow hairs with a spongy core trap air and act as an insulating blanket against frigid or searing temperatures. Pronghorn do as well in the harsh temperatures of the windswept Wyoming prairie in January as in the hot deserts of northern Sonora, Mexico in July.



Photo from AZ Game & Fish

The Ice Age prepared them well for their journey to the present. However, with human encroachment into their habitat and competition with other land users, their environment is changing faster than they can evolve. The future of their existence will depend heavily on our stewardship of their remaining habitat.



SONORAN PRONGHORN UPDATE



BY JILL BRIGHT AZ GAME & FISH
NOVEMBER 2014

Captive Breeding:

Cabeza Prieta Captive Breeding Pen

Currently there are 88 pronghorn in the pen; 26 adults and 14 fawns in north half and 34 adults and 14 fawns in south half. Orange collar doe in north was last seen on October 24 and it appeared her right eye was infected, and she was slightly underweight. She was not seen for over two weeks; the pen crew did not search for her initially because they did not want to startle her or cause her to run with a bad eye. She was found dead on November 11 near where she was last seen; cause of death is unknown, but her eye infection and her age (11+) likely played a role. She was one of the original females put in the pen from the wild in December 2004. A yearling buck in south herd has been observed limping and walking stiffly; the pen crew continues to monitor him; he appears to graze normally, and has not lost any weight.

Two yearling females from north crossed the midline fence sometime between November 29th and December 1st. Both are now in south herd and appear fine. The midline fence was checked and it appears they may have jumped over. The pronghorn were treated with Corid (for prevention of coccidian spp) in their water for 5 days 24 – 29 November. This is the last of three treatments this year; the first was in March, and the second in mid-July.

The pen crew continued to prepare for December boma captures throughout the month. Both herds have been entering the bomas on a consistent basis; if this trend continues, the majority of both herds will be captured. We are planning to do the boma capture/release December 11 -14. If all the pronghorn are caught in the bomas, there will be 35 pronghorn for release to Kofa, Organ Pipe Cactus NM, and the BMGR-West. All the other pronghorn will be marked and returned to the Cabeza pen.

Status of Pronghorn in Cabeza Pen

November 2014

NORTH HALF		SOUTH HALF	
Adult Females	9	Adult Females	10
Yearling Females (b 2013)	11	Yearling Females (b 2013)	12
Breeding Buck (b 2010, Purple 3)	1	Breeding Buck (b 2010, Yellow 3)	1
Back-up Buck (b 2011, Yel/Blk 3)	1	Breeding Buck (b 2012, Grn/Wht 3)	1
Adult Buck (from wild 2010)	1	Adult Bucks (b2012)	2
Yearling Bucks (b 2013)	3	Yearling Bucks (b2013)	8
Fawns (9males, 5 females, born 2014)	14	Fawns (born 2014)	14
TOTAL	40	TOTAL	48
Total Pen	88		

(Continued on page 13)

Kofa Captive Breeding Pen

There are 31 pronghorn in Kofa pen including 15 fawns. The Kofa pen did not receive much summer rain and is drying out. The Kofa pen crew has been working on getting the holding pens at Clancy Tank on Kofa and on BMGR-West ready for this year's captures and releases from the Cabeza pen. Due to the low fawn recruitment in Kofa pen last year (2 fawns) we are not planning to release any animals from the Kofa pen this year. Some animals will be brought from the Cabeza pen to the holding pen for eventual release into the wild on Kofa.

Status of Pronghorn in Kofa Pen

	November 2014
Adult Females	11
Yearling Females (<i>b</i> 2013)	1
Adult Males	3
Yearling Males	1
Fawns (born 2014, 11 females, 4 males)	15
TOTAL	31

Summary of Pronghorn for Release into the Wild

2013 Released Pronghorn - Cabeza

The pronghorn released on ORPI have continued to use the Valley of the Ajo. The 2 pronghorn with non-working collars are routinely seen with the 2 collared pronghorn on the telemetry flights.

The four pronghorn released on BMGR-West have remained in the same general areas as previously reported. The two bucks that were released near the captive breeding pen have been using Child's Valley and the tactical ranges on BMGR.

2013 Released Pronghorn - KOFA

The pronghorn released on Kofa are still being seen in two general areas. Four males are generally in the vicinity of the pen. Most of the other pronghorn are now usually found in the southern King Valley on Kofa, often in one big group.

Water Projects: Nothing new to report.

Forage Enhancements: All the forage plots are still green with the recent rains; consequently we are not irrigating any.

Other Projects/Personnel: We completed the biennial range-wide survey in Arizona November 13 – 23. We observed 168 pronghorn on the survey transects. Using our sighting probability model, our estimate is 202 (171 – 334). We missed a group of 4 in ORPI based on radio collars, and we missed a group of 7 on North Tac that was observed flying to another block. There was also a group of 7 (with 3 radio collars) that moved between adjacent blocks and was not available to be seen when we flew either block. Counting the number of pronghorn observed and missed, the minimum number is 186. Two years ago, we observed 108 on transect, the estimate was 159 (111 – 432) and minimum number was 131.

We plan to finish surveying the Pinacate area in Sonora, Mexico December 16-18.

Wild Pronghorn Cabeza/ORPI/BMGR herd : Nothing new to report.

HUNTING SUCCESS



Above, former AAF President and Life Member Jim McCasland (c) along with friends Mark Bool (l) and former AAF President and Life Member Pete Cimellaro (r).

Below, Jim is pictured with his son Nathan, who was also successful this past fall. Jim waited 27 years to be drawn and Nathan 22.



HUNTING SUCCESS



AAF LIFE MEMBER DALE HISLOP CALGARY, AB

Harvested this beauty at 60 yards
with 257 Weatherby Mag
September 5, 2014
Hualapai Reservation
Mohave County Arizona
Guided by Clay Bravo



Dale's trophy scored
97 4/8 gross B&C
95 4/8 net B&C following
64 day drying period

ALLY'S FIRST HUNT

The icy wind blew in sending shivers up my spine. I blew warm air from my breath onto my numb fingers. The sun crept up over the mountains but it would be a long time before the warm sunlight would reach us. Until then I had no choice but to sit out the cold. Brian glassed the hill from a high rock a few feet away. I scanned the rest of the valley from our little hill but saw no evidence of game. A truck rumbled past on the main dirt road back where we had parked our vehicle. "Bill it's another hunter," I remember Brian saying to my Granddad. He grumbled. This had been the 5th hunter we had seen since we had gotten up and it wasn't even daylight. Seems like every other deer hunter in the area had migrated to this spot.

I thought back to the phone call from my Granddad a few months before. He told me we had both gotten drawn for the 2014 fall deer hunt. I had been so excited and eager. We packed our bags full, days before, with everything you could possibly need. We headed up the morning before the hunt to an area called Agua Fria in Bloody Basin Arizona that my Granddad had previously scouted. We set up camp under a nice big juniper tree just behind a wash.

It was a perfect camping spot. My Granddad had been to the same place years before when he shot his first Arizona pronghorn. Then in 2012 my uncle Brian shot a big buck. Needless to say it holds a lot of pleasant memories. It also became the memory of my first camping trip.

By the time the sun had crept over the valley it was apparent that area wasn't our place. We headed back up further on the northern mountains. We took the Ranger up a very steep rocky hill. I held tightly onto the two gun cases at my sides to hold them in from falling out. My feet pressed against the floor trying to brace myself while we flailed about. I bit the inside of my lip and squeezed my eyes shut. My stomach rolled and flipped. Prayers rolled off my tongue every time the rugged vehicle would make sharp turns. When we got out to hike

further my rear was so suctioned to the seat I could hardly get up. We had only walked about 500 yards when just around the bend my Granddad froze. "Ally get your gun loaded," he instructed in a loud whisper. My hands began to shake as I cocked a bullet into the chamber. My finger hovered over the safety ready to click it off and fire at the best opportunity. I took deep breaths forcing oxygen into my lungs. Deep breaths.

I peered over the ridge and there was the body of a gray deer behind some trees. Not a clear shot. All of this happened in a second. I swear it was a ghost of a deer. Just like that it disappeared over the crest of the hill.

"Ally go up and take your position by that water tank up the hill a bit," he said motioning to the spot. "Ill go up the hill and if I see it I'll give you my signal and you come up or if I'll send it your way and you shoot," he instructed. I nodded and ran up the hill with Brian just behind me.

The 10-foot diameter steel water tank would've made a lovely support to rest the gun if it hadn't been full of bees. I crouched down outside the bin and rested the muzzle on a Y shaped stick.

Hot adrenaline surged in my veins. Bees buzzed in my ears so loud I couldn't hear the sound of my heart hammering in my chest. They landed on my bare forearms and the back of my neck. Sweat rolled down my spine. If this moment came I knew I was ready.

We never saw the deer again. All in all we didn't get a good shot and there was no kill. However that doesn't mean it was an unsuccessful hunt. I saw many javelina, coyote, bobcat, deer and pronghorn tracks carved in mud. At one point my Granddad and I glassed the valley and caught sight of some pronghorn off in the distance. Upon closer observation we were surprised to see a very large herd of about 35 of them!

I slept under the bright night sky and learned how to

(Continued on page 17)



cook with a Dutch oven. We laughed over mushy cooked bananas and buttery biscuits. I remember holding a steaming cup of thick black coffee between my hands at night. The moon was big and full and it was so bright I couldn't even make out the stars. At night it was so bright we didn't need a flashlight and you could see your shadow on the dirt. It was absolutely beautiful! Though I would have loved to put that tag to use, I got a genuine experience I'd never have gotten any-

where else. I saw some of God's amazing creations and learned many valuable lessons. It was a great weekend and I pray someday I'll get to return to that juniper tree again and recall the memories that will last a lifetime.

Ally Gomez is a 15-year-old high-school student who aspires to be a writer/author and is the granddaughter of AAF Sustaining Member Bill Cole.

4FRI PROJECTS EXCEED MANY FOREST RESTORATION GOALS

Over the past five years, restoration projects stemming from the Four Forest Restoration Initiative (4FRI) have met or exceeded restoration goals for hazardous fuels reduction, watershed sustainability, and wildlife habitat improvement. A summary of restoration accomplishments is available at the 4FRI website at <http://go.usa.gov/sZQk>.

“Since the start of 4FRI in 2010, the U. S. Forest Service has been working to address the wildland fire, wildlife habitat, and watershed issues that are so critical to Arizona,” said 4FRI Team Leader, Annette Fredette. “Wildlife habitat, as well as watershed function and resilience, has been improved on approximately 300,000 acres.”

Across the 4FRI national forests, efforts are being made to accelerate restoration well into the future through innovative planning and strategic investments. For example, forests are sharing sale prep and fire crews to increase the acres of prescribed fire and thinning task orders, with noticeable results. Accomplishments since 2010 include:

- Reducing the risk of catastrophic fire on approximately 300,000 acres through hazardous fuel treatments.
- Reducing the risk of stand-replacing fire across 23% of the 4FRI landscape.
- Harvesting more than 32,000 acres of timber from forest lands totaling approximately 773,000 CCF (100 cubic feet). This is enough lumber to build over 65,000 homes.
- Treating invasive plants on more than 14,000 acres.
- Maintaining or improving approximately 800 miles of trails.
- Producing more than 1.1 billion kilowatt hours of

bio-energy with green biomass removed from forest lands. This is enough energy to power 100,000 homes for a year.

These restoration efforts have been supported by extensive interaction between the U.S. Forest Service and the 4FRI stakeholder group. “Through collaboration, we are laying the groundwork to restore the landscape at the scale of the problem,” said Diane Vosick, current co-chair of the 4FRI stakeholder group and Director of Policy and Partnerships for the Ecological Restoration Institute at Northern Arizona University. “These accomplishments are just the beginning for a ground breaking project like 4FRI.” The Four Forest Restoration Initiative is a collaborative effort to restore forest ecosystems on portions of the Coconino, Kaibab, Apache-Sitgreaves and Tonto National Forests in northern Arizona.



Photo by Richard Ockenfels



SHORT SHOTS

AZGF COMMISSION NOMINEES

The Arizona Game and Fish Commission Appointment Recommendation Board has forwarded the names of three candidates to the Governor's Office for consideration in filling the upcoming 2015 vacancy on the Arizona Game and Fish Commission.

John "Doyel" Shamley, Eric Slocum Sparks and James S. Zieler were selected from four candidates who were interviewed by the board at its public meeting on Nov. 10. The four who were interviewed were chosen from an initial slate of 16 applicants previously considered by the Appointment Recommendation Board at its Oct. 22 public meeting.

Per Arizona State Statute 17-202 (which became effective in July 2010), the Arizona Game and Fish Commission Appointment Recommendation Board shall assist the governor by interviewing, evaluating and recommending candidates for appointment to the Arizona Game and Fish Commission. The Commission Appointment Recommendation Board shall recommend at least two, but no more than five, candidates to the governor. The governor must select and appoint a commissioner from the list submitted by the board.

As of this writing, we have not heard if the Governor has made a decision.

ANOTHER OPPORTUNITY TO CONTRIBUTE TO THE AZ ANTELOPE FOUNDATION

Amazon now offers a way for you to contribute to your favorite organization just by shopping. When you shop at AmazonSMile, Amazon will donate to the AAF every time you shop. Just logon to AmazonSmile with your regular Amazon shopping profile and select the AAF as your designated charity.

Shop at AmazonSmile

and Amazon will make a donation to:

Arizona Antelope Foundation

Get started

amazon smile

NEW WIRE ROLLER/QUAD/TRAILER

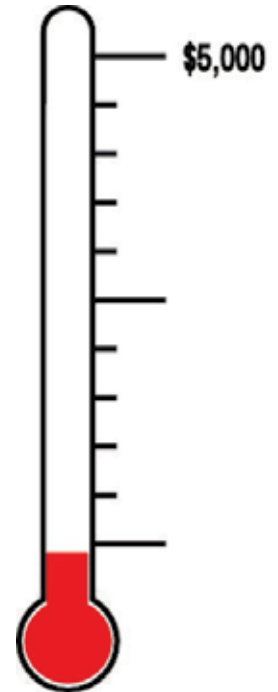
The AAF has begun a targeted fundraising campaign to raise funds for purchase of a new wire roller, a used quad to mount it to, and trailer to haul. If you've attended a fencing project recently, you have seen for yourself how valuable this equipment is to our work.

Donations from our members along with 50/50 cash raffles at our habitat projects will be the primary funding source for purchasing this equipment.

Please send your donations to:
AZ Antelope Foundation
Att: Wire Roller Fund
PO Box 12590
Glendale, AZ 85318

You may also click on the DONATE button on our website at www.azantelope.org

Fundraising Goal



PLANNED PRONGHORN CAPTURE

AZ Game & Fish is planning a capture and relocation at the end of January. These animals will be moved from 19B to southeastern Arizona as part of our large scale connectivity efforts in that part of the state. For more information and to sign up to help, contact Erin Butler Game Specialist, Kingman Region (928) 692-7700 x 2330.

ARIZONA BIG GAME SUPER RAFFLE

Sales have begun for the 2015 campaign. This is your chance to win one of the 10 coveted Commissioner's tags. Winners can hunt for 365 days almost anywhere in the state. Funds raised from the sales of the tags go back into important conservation work. Additional prizes offered are a Swarovski optics package valued at \$13,750, and a New Mexico Trophy Elk hunt. Sales will continue through the first part of July, and the drawing will take place on July 23rd. Visit their website for more information.

WWW.ARIZONABIGGAMESUPERRAFFLE.COM

MEMBERSHIP

LIFE MEMBERS

- | | | |
|----------------------------------|------------------------------------|-----------------------------------|
| 1. Art Pearce, Phoenix | 20. Mick Rusing, Tucson | 39. Susan Pearce, Tucson |
| 2. Jim Mehen, Flagstaff | 21. George Welsh, Kingman | 40. Glen Dickens, Tucson |
| 3. Larry D. Adams, Bullhead City | 22. Matthew Massey, Gilbert | 41. Will Garrison, Peoria |
| 4. James K. McCasland, | 23. Don Parks, Peoria | 42. Tom Waddell, New Mexico |
| 5. Nina Gammons, Payette, ID | 24. Bill & Kerrie Jacoby, Chandler | 43. Josiah Austin, Pearce |
| 6. Nancy Lewis, Phoenix | 25. Adam Geotl, Cottonwood | 44. Connie Taylor, Mesa |
| 7. Pete Cimellaro, Phoenix | 26. Shane Stewart, Gilbert | 45. Mark Boswell, Mesa |
| 8. Jerry Weiers, Phoenix | 27. Don Davidson, Mesa | 46. Jessica R. Pearce, Scottsdale |
| 9. Harry Carlson, Phoenix | 28. Terry Petko, Mesa | 47. Douglas Hartzler, Phoenix |
| 10. David Brown, Phoenix | 29. Gary M. Johnson, Phoenix | 48. Karen LaFrance, Phoenix |
| 11. Art Boswell, Tucson | 30. Richard Guenzel, Laramie WY | 49. Kurt Schulz, Waddell |
| 12. Charlie Kelly, Scottsdale | 31. Randy Cherington, Scottsdale | 50. Walt Scrimgeour |
| 13. Chrissy Weiers, Phoenix | 32. Joe Del Re, Chandler | 51. Clifford Nystrom |
| 14. Al Sue, Scottsdale | 33. Bob Walker, Phoenix | 52. Jon Coppa, Patagonia |
| 15. Mary Keebler, Happy Jack | 34. Cookie Nicoson, Williams | 53. Neal Brown, Phoenix |
| 16. Bill Keebler, Happy Jack | 35. Tim Blank, Mesa | 54. Tice Supplee, Phoenix |
| 17. James Stewart, Phoenix | 36. Jodi Stewart, Gilbert | 55. Richard Miller, Flagstaff |
| 18. Terry Schupp, Tempe | 37. Keith Joyner, Scottsdale | |
| 19. Dale Hislop, Calgary Canada | 38. David Hussey, Cave Creek | |

SUSTAINING MEMBERS

Robert Bushong, Yuma	Michael Domanico, Scottsdale	Richard Ockenfels, Mayer
Bill Cole, Glendale	Randy Gaskill, Show Low	Gage Permar, Prescott
Thomas Collins, Prescott	Roger & Ilene Hailey, Flagstaff	Bob & Judy Prosser, Winslow
William Cordasco, Flagstaff	Alice Koch, Templeton, CA	Jim & Tracy Unmacht, New River
Paul & Joann Delaney, Flagstaff	Susan Morse, Jericho VT	David L. Wolf, Flagstaff
Linda Dightmon, Peoria	Keith Newlon, Sierra Vista	

FAMILY MEMBERS

Jim & Rita Ammons, Yuma	Mike Gauman, Queen Creek	David & Debra Scott, Surprise
Bruce & Vicki Belman, Flagstaff	Brian George, Scottsdale	James Sivley, Scottsdale
Richard & Julia Chabak, Glendale	David Justice, Prescott	William & Jan Skibbe, Tucson
Ken & Kathy Cook, Casa Grande	Davie & Sue Laird, Show Low	Barry Sopher, Tucson
Brian & Dorothy Dolan, Tucson	Jeff & Cynthia Mason, Scottsdale	Michael Tindle, Mesa
Ron & Sharon Eichelberger, Alpine	Amy & Stephen Ostwinkle, Chandler	Chad Villamor, Topock
Chad & Andrea Elliott, Ehrenberg	Brad & Dana Remfrey, Gilbert	Sean Wilson, Tempe
Kyle & Shawn Gallagher, Peoria	Corky & Cindi Richardson, Laveen	Steven Wilson, Chandler
Alan Gallagher, Phoenix	Daniel Robinett, Elgin	Kevin & Tiffany York, Mesa

PLEASE RENEW YOUR MEMBERSHIP TODAY!

WELCOME NEW LIFE MEMBER RICHARD MILLER OF FLAGSTAFF!



ARIZONA ANTELOPE FOUNDATION

P. O. BOX 12590
GLENDALE, AZ 85318

NONPROFIT
ORG.
U.S. POSTAGE
PAID
PHONIX,AZ
PERMIT NO. 318

ADDRESS SERVICE REQUESTED

NOT A MEMBER? JOIN TODAY!

Join (or renew) now and help the Arizona Antelope Foundation in its efforts to fund and provide the manpower necessary to finance pronghorn research, enhance and improve pronghorn habitat, encourage and assist in pronghorn transplants to historic habitat, and replenish existing herds.

Contributions to the Foundation are tax deductible, as the Foundation is a 501(c)(3) organization.

Complete the form below and send with your payment to our mailing address. You can also join/renew online with your credit card. It's easy to do. Just visit the Membership page on our website, www.azantelope.org

Name
Address
City, State, Zip
Phone
Email

- Regular Membership \$ 40.00 Per Yr.
Family Membership \$ 60.00 Per Yr.
Sustaining Membership \$ 100.00 Per Yr.
Life Membership
Age 59 and YOUNGER \$1000.00
Age 60-66 \$ 750.00
Age 67 and OLDER \$ 500.00

Method of Payment: Cash Check
VISA Master Card Discover
Amount Enclosed \$
Credit Card #
Expiration 3-digit Security Code
Signature

New Member Renewal