



PRONGHORN

Official Publication of the Arizona Antelope Foundation, Inc., a Non-Profit, Tax-Exempt Corporation ~ Volume 12, Number 1, 1st Quarter 2006

THE ARIZONA ANTELOPE FOUNDATION PRESENTS ITS 3rd Annual Fundraising Banquet

“Help Us Fill the Auditorium for Antelope!”

WHEN: SATURDAY, JULY 22, 2006 **WATERHOLE:** 4:00 PM **BUFFET DINNER** 5:30 PM

WHERE: EL ZARIBAH SHRINE 552 NORTH 40TH ST. (JUST SOUTH OF I-202)

HOW MUCH: \$60 PER ADULT/\$30 PER CHILD UNDER 18
\$600 TABLE FOR 8 – INCLUDES \$200 IN RAFFLE TICKETS

WHAT: LIVE AUCTION, SILENT AUCTION AND RAFFLES FOR ART, GREAT HUNTS, FISHING TRIPS, FIREARMS, HUNTING, FISHING AND CAMPING GEAR, EVEN ITEMS FOR THE LADY OF THE HOUSE.

WHO: FOR TICKETS CALL DON JOHNSON 480-983-6146.

FOR MORE INFORMATION CONTACT JIM UNMACHT 623-570-0534



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Visit us on the World Wide Web

**www.azantelope.org
info@azantelope.org**

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

In October 2005 the Arizona Game & Fish Commission authorized another antelope tag as part of the nine species Arizona Big Game Super Raffle. This makes a total of 3 special tags, one for the AZBGSR and the two tags that we auction each year. One of the auction tags recently sold at the Arizona Desert Bighorn Sheep Society fundraiser for a near-record \$65,000! The other tag will be auctioned at our AAF 3rd annual fundraiser on July 22nd. We want to set a new record price for that tag at our fundraiser.

Our 3rd annual fundraiser will be Saturday July 22nd. It takes a lot of time and effort to put on our banquet. The fundraiser committee would really appreciate your help with this effort. They also need help getting donations for the fundraiser. Please consider lending your time and or support and help us help antelope. To volunteer send an e-mail to info@azantelope.org or call 623-570-0534.

Now that we have received 1.44 inches of rain we have some relief from the drought. We desperately need more rain before we can consider the drought over. Let's all hope that the worst is over for pronghorn and all wildlife in our great state.

We have most of our project schedule set for the year. Our first project was held April 1-2nd in Unit 21. Future project dates and locations are:

May 19-21 Big Lake (9350 feet elevation) fence removal with Arizona Elk Society.

June 17-18 Anderson Mesa unit 5A.

We are also working on scheduling a project in Unit 27. Information will follow as it becomes available.

In 2005 the AAF was awarded the Conservation Organization of the year by the Arizona Game and Fish Commission. A special thanks to past President Jim Unmacht for his efforts and dedication that made our receiving this award possible.

*Dave
Laird*



TOOTH AGING

In 2005, the Arizona Antelope Foundation in cooperation with the Armendaris Ranch in New Mexico began a study to age harvested pronghorn antelope and compare their respective horn size and B & C score. In most antlered big game species, the older the animal, the larger the antlers and the bigger the B & C score. That does **not** necessarily hold true with pronghorn, hence the study. The hope was to obtain some meaningful results that will be useful in determining which age classes to manage for, and how it may impact the various pronghorn herds. Thanks to the following who submitted teeth to help us in this study.

R. Peterson Unit 18A "89" 5 yrs (4-6)
Joseph Savoni Unit 17B "83" 5 years
Darrell Buntin Unit 19B "83" 6 yrs (5-7)
Bruce Kroeger Unit 1 "83" 7 yrs
Jim Hartsock New Mexico "82" 3 yrs (3-4)
Todd Geiler Unit 9 "78" 4 yrs
John Underwood Unit 1 "78" (4 prongs!) 4 yrs

Jerry Weirs New Mexico "69 1/8" 2 yrs
Thom Hulen Unit 21 "68" 4 yrs (aged at 5 1/2 by tooth replacement).
Micheal Elson Unit 5A "68 2/8" 8 yrs
BANWR (found dead) Unit 36B "66 6/8" 9 yrs
Jim Hartsock Unit 13A "63" 3 yrs (3-4)
Larry Dees New Mexico "60 2/8" 2 yrs



SONORAN PRONGHORN UPDATE



BY JILL BRIGHT AZ GAME & FISH
MARCH 27, 2006

Captive Breeding:

North Half: All 12 adults and juveniles in the north half of the pen are doing well. Orange Doe's two fawns are still doing well. Blue Doe and Green Doe appear to have 1 new fawn each. No fawns have been seen yet with Red or Yellow Does. We put a smaller feeder in the NE area of the pen, near the larger one, to reduce competition at the larger feeder (we had noticed the buck and male juveniles chasing the females off the feeder several times). This seems to be working well, and all the pronghorn feed daily at the feeders as well as on native forage.

South Half: All the pronghorn in the south half are doing well. We put a smaller, more open feeder in the SE area of the pen to see if the pronghorn would be less afraid of it. Teal Doe has put on some weight, and looks much better. She is also more active. She occasionally eats alfalfa from the feeders, but eats a lot of it from the ground. The other two Mexican pronghorn eat alfalfa readily from the feeders now. All 3 Arizona does also eat readily from the feeders.

Orange/Brown Doe's two fawns are doing well, have been seen eating at the smaller feeder, and spend quite a bit of time with the adults in the pen now. Green/White Doe also has 2 fawns.

We are in the process of hiring a summer intern to work at the pen.

On March 11, 2.5 inches of rain was recorded at the pen. All the small washes ran, as well as several of the larger ones. It also rained March 18, but just enough to wet the ground.

Water Projects: We checked all the emergency waters on a recent aerial flight. Fawn Hills, Antelope Hills and Antelope Parabolic were mostly full. Two of the three waters in the Sierra Pintas had some water from when we filled them last month. It didn't seem to have rained much in that area. Granite Mountains was also still empty. We are planning to helicopter water into that one soon.

Forage Enhancements: We spent 2 days irrigating at Granite Mountains forage enhancement site. Then it rained 2 days later, so we consider that a huge success!! We also filled the water. We observed several pronghorn tracks on the forage plot, near the water.

Other Projects: Nothing to report at this time.

Sonoran Pronghorn Update continued from page 4

Wild Pronghorn: We did a monitoring flight March 26 and located the 2 radio collared pronghorn. One was with 3 other females, and the other one was by herself.

The present forage conditions were highly variable, drier in the west, much better to the east. There were emerging forbs in the eastern areas where it had rained more. The Agua Dulces looked good. There were abundant emerging forbs on parts of South Tac.



Pronghorn around the small feeder in the north half of the pen. Photo courtesy AZ G&F.

Anderson Mesa

Pronghorn and Grassland Bird Projects 2005 Accomplishments

1. Accomplishments on Forest Service Lands

610 acres of grassland restoration at Apache Maid 860 acres at Long Lake (MLRD),

610 acres of grassland restoration at Ashurst Lake

236 acres of grassland restoration at Yeager Lake

600 acres of grassland restoration at Cow Lake

701 acres of grassland restoration at Chavez Mountain

935 acres of grassland restoration at Young's Canyon

500 acres of effective treatment in 1100 acre test burn south of Breezy Lake

470 acres of grassland restoration east of Kinickinick Lake

5,522 acres total on Forest Service in 2005

The Forest Service completed NEPA clearance in 2005 on more than 53,000 acres of pinyon and juniper and grassland treatment from Bar T Bar, Anderson Springs EIS and Long Lake Habitat Improvement decision.

Four volunteer workdays cut trees on roughly 250 acres near Cow Lake.

- *Total acres treated on Forest Service: 13,415 or approximately 22% of plan objective on Forest Service Lands since 2002*

Richard Miller of G&F provided us with the pictures below which show cut and uncut areas near Olin Tank, which is part of a migration route off the Mesa to the tanks.



NEPA is complete and archaeology is underway for fencing 14 wetlands on Anderson Mesa. Fencing at Yeager and Cow Lakes is underway. Fencing at lakes will include access lanes to allow livestock to drink unless other water is readily available. Plans are being developed for fencing 7 additional wetlands.

Forest crews rebuilt 5.5 miles of fencing to standards.

2. Accomplishments on State and Private Lands

3,800 acres of chaining near West Sunset Mesa on the Bar T Bar

1,395 acres of hand crew cutting on the Bar T Bar near Melatone

950 acres of agra axe and burning on the Flying M (estimated)

6,145 acres total on State and Private in 2005

- Total acres treated on state and private 8,299 areas or 41% of plan objective since 2002

3. Accomplishments on Raymond Ranch Wildlife Area

- 300 acres of old pushed juniper burned
- 400 acres of old pushed juniper chipped
- 100 acres of green standing juniper chipped
- 150 acres of sacaton grassland burned by ASLD crew.
- 950 acres on Raymond Ranch Wildlife Area in 2005

➤ As of December 2005 we have exceeded our plan target of 2000 acres by 50 acres on Raymond Ranch Wildlife Area.

Totals

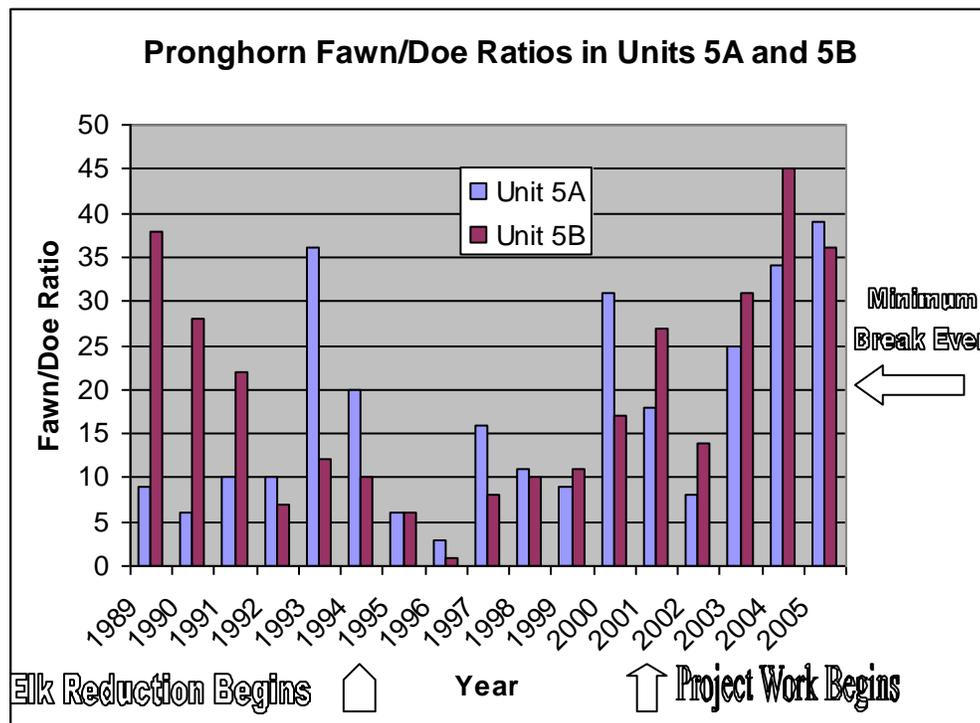
- ▶ Total of approximately 12,000 acres (19 square miles) treated on all ownerships in 2005
- ▶ Total of approximately 22,000 acres (34 square miles) treated on all ownerships since 2002

Pronghorn Response

Fawn Doe Ratios appear to have turned around and have exceeded the minimum breakeven point the last 3 years. The Pronghorn may have benefited from any or all of the following:

- Reduced elk populations beginning in 1995,
- 2002 drought and subsequent reductions in pinyon and junipers,
- Wild fires in 2003 and 2004,
- Improved fencing beginning in 2002,
- Grazing changes beginning in 2002,
- Three years of coyote control, in 2002, 2003 and 2004
- Vegetation treatments as part of this project beginning 2002.
- Hunt management with increase buck doe ratio beginning in 2002

As we told the participants at the beginning of the work, because of the design of the project, it is impossible to separate out the causes of this improvement.



PREDATOR CONTROL AND PRONGHORN RECRUITMENT ON ANDERSON MESA: A LITERATURE REVIEW

BY RICHARD OCKENFELS, AZ GAME & FISH

In the early 1940s, Knipe (1944) completed the first systematic survey of pronghorn and pronghorn habitat condition in northern Arizona. His report resulted in the establishment of a long-term study (Arrington and Edwards 1951) of the effects of predator control on pronghorn fawn survival on Anderson Mesa. Aerial surveys suggested that poor fawn recruitment was the major cause of the population decline on the Mesa. Coyote (*Canis latrans*) control occurred on the treatment area, and following fawn recruitment was 52:100 does, whereas the untreated control area had only 4 fawns:100 does. A review of other ranges across Arizona in the 1940s indicated that areas treated widespread with poisons (strychnine, 1080) had higher fawn survival than untreated areas.

Pronghorn populations were relatively high until the winter storm of 1967-68 (O'Gara and Shaw 2004). Further, a presidential ban on use of poisons on public lands was enacted in 1972. Low pronghorn populations further plummeted, and interest in pronghorn recovery increased. Anderson Mesa declined to around 400 animals. Fawn survival once again became an issue.

Anderson Mesa was again chosen in the 1970s to further study pronghorn fawn survival. Low fawn survival was deemed the primary cause of decreased pronghorn populations across Arizona, thus research was warranted. The results of the Anderson Mesa study (Neff and Woolsey 1979, 1980) indicated that pronghorn natality (fawns actually born) was within the normal range observed across the distribution of pronghorn in North America. Maternal care was normal, and the fawns were born vigorous and active. All data suggested that forage was adequate at the time of the study. There was little evidence to suggest disease or parasitism was an issue. The answer to low fawn recruitment was direct predation by coyotes on the young fawns. Also, on Anderson Mesa since the 1940s through the 1970s, fawn survival was consistently low except in years when coyote numbers were controlled by use of 1080 poison. Since the use of 1080 was banned on public lands, alternative methods of controlling coyotes were needed. This study recommended a 5-yr study to determine the costs and response of coyote removal, by steel leg-hold trapping and shooting, on the coyote population relative to the benefits on the pronghorn population.

Based on the above Neff and Woolsey (1979, 1980) work, and a review of available literature across the range of pronghorn distribution, a 5-yr study on the

effectiveness of a coyote control treatment was undertaken. The study was conducted on Anderson Mesa. Cost estimates of the control, including direct costs of aerial gunning, were included in the study design. The response of the pronghorn population was evaluated with respect to cost estimates and the duration of coyote removal treatment. The biologists (Neff et al. 1985, Smith et al. 1986) used the field data to construct a benefit:cost simulation model to assess several removal strategies and the likely responses of the pronghorn population over a 10-yr period.

For the coyote removal treatment study, high fawn survival in 1980-83 was strongly correlated with the experimental treatment of removing coyotes by aerial gunning from a helicopter in the spring just prior to fawning (Smith et al. 1986). This also resulted in a rapid increase in the pronghorn population. Fawn survival rose dramatically, resulting in a large increase in recruitment into the population. There was little evidence to suggest that factors other than coyote control were associated with the increased fawn survival. At the time, the range condition seemed adequate, with the exception that the range seemed to lack an adequate shrub component. Disease and behavior (fawn abandonment, etc.) did not seem to be factors. Leg-hold trapping success varied widely, and was not deemed a substantial factor in the improvement in fawn survival. After the removal treatment was completed, the July 1983 estimate of 1,008 pronghorn (adults + yearlings) was the highest since 1960 for Anderson Mesa and adjacent winter range. Only 1 other pronghorn herd in Arizona showed a strong upward trend during the treatment period.

Coyote numbers were indexed by the use of marked animals. Sample sizes were low each year, so precision of the estimated numbers was low, but the estimates were reasonable and consistent for number of coyotes per unit area. Removal of coyotes was estimated at 22-29% of the population each year. Group size of coyotes declined from the pre-treatment estimates. The maximum net benefit occurred when control was applied 1 year in 2. The next highest benefit occurred if treatment (removal) occurred in 2 of every 5 years. Smith et al. (1986) concluded that long-term coyote management was needed to accumulate net benefits beyond that of "no-control".

Shaw (2000) analyzed the available data for fawn

continued on page 9

Anderson Mesa Predator Control and Pronghorn Recruitment continued from page 8

survival and predation across Arizona, including Arizona, and reviewed the model of Smith et al. (1986). He cautioned the use of the model, as newer data did not hold the same as during the study period. He found that fawn survival dropped to levels lower than pre-treatment conditions 2 years post-treatment (coyote removal). His analysis of 14 Game Management Units, representing 22 coyote treatment events using aerial gunning, suggested that short-term increases in fawn survival were possible.

A thorough review of the history of Anderson Mesa was recently completed by O’Gara and Shaw (2004). They concluded that it was possible to increase fawn survival with coyote control. They didn’t believe that a small, intermittent control program was adequate; rather control of 1 of 2 years over large areas would be more effective. They also believed that long-term, well-designed research was warranted to better understand mechanisms of fawn survival to other long-term factors, such as density dependency and habitat conditions.

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Richard A. Ockenfels
Research Branch
Arizona Game and Fish Department

Photo courtesy Jon Hanna, AZ G&F



RESEARCH BRANCH ACTIVITIES ON ANDERSON MESA MARCH 15, 2006 UPDATE

RON SIEG, REGION II SUPERVISOR AZ GAME & FISH

The Research Branch and Region II Flagstaff personnel captured 8 adult pronghorn on Anderson Mesa starting in 2003, in an effort to help guide restoration activities on the Mesa. New technology GPS-equipped (Global Positioning System) radio collars were put on the animals. The collars also had a new technology, remote radio system, similar to walkie-talkie technology, that allowed us to upload the location data from the collars via a direct flyover with a specially-equipped, Department fixed-wing aircraft.

In fall of 2004, an additional 7 animals were captured to increase the sample size of study animals. Radiotelemetry flights continued through 2004 and all of 2005. The following table summarizes the available data for analysis.

Animal ID #	2003	2004	2005	2006	Total Locations
150	82	65			147
151	94	192			286
152	91	463	282		836
153	91	512	367		970
154	94	508	346		948
155	94	505	204		803
156	90	50			140
157	95	488	303		886
158		88	305		393
159		92	11		103
160		95	197		292
161		99	326		425
162		100	124		224
163		97	502	45	644
164		94	299		393
Totals	731	3,448	3,266	45	7,490

Three animals died in 2004. The vast majority of the animals died or the collars dropped off study animals in 2005. So, by 2006, only one collar was still actively communicating with the GPS system and the upload receiver. A second animal was still alive in 2006, but the collar was no longer communicating for uploads (the VHF locating system was still functioning).

In 2006, flights to retrieve available data from the remaining study animal have been drastically reduced. There are no current plans to put out additional collars at this time.

The Research Branch contracted with Northern Arizona University (Dr. Tom Sisk) to prepare a wide variety of GIS (Geographical Information System) data cover layers to help analyze the available locations. The University is currently working to complete the contract and provide the covers to the Department.

Analysis of the data will likely be completed by Research Branch personnel. Scientific manuscripts will be prepared based on results of various analyses. Flights to upload the remaining study animal's data will be done in combination with other telemetry flights. The GIS location database will be updated as needed.



22ND BIENNIAL PRONGHORN WORKSHOP AWARDS NOMINATIONS

Pronghorn Workshops are a sanctioned event of the Western Association of Fish and Wildlife Agencies. The meetings are held every 2 years as a focal point for information and discussion about pronghorn in North America. The 19th Biennial Pronghorn Workshop established 2 awards in 2000 and the first awards were given out in 2002. The 2006 Pronghorn Workshop (22nd Biennial) will be held in Idaho Falls, Idaho on May 16-19. Nominations for awards are encouraged for the Berrendo Award and the Special Recognition Award.

The **Berrendo Award** is the most significant award offered through the Pronghorn Workshop. One award per workshop is given to an individual or a group of collaborators who have made great contributions to management or research for pronghorn. The plaque features an engraving of a desert pronghorn, an animal that epitomizes the difficulty of being a pronghorn. **Nomination Criteria** are: 1) An individual, organization, or group of collaborators that has gone well beyond normal job expectations in a project related to pronghorn; 2) contributions need to afford significant scientific advances in the management or research of

pronghorn; and 3) contributions can represent a single event or a long-term commitment to pronghorn. Previous Winners: *Jim Yoakum* (2002); *Bart O'Gara* (deceased, 2004).

The **Special Recognition Award** also recognizes those who have made significant contributions that aid in the management of pronghorn. These can include projects that are oriented to pronghorn management or research. The Special Recognition Award is a certificate recognizing the accomplishments of an individual or group and up to 4 awards per year can be presented. **Nomination Criteria** are 1) The individual, organization, or group of collaborators nominated should have made an important contribution to aid in management of pronghorn; and 2) contributions can be a single event or the accumulation of long-term contributions.

Previous Winners are: *Karl Menzel*, NE (2002), *Jorge Cancino*, BCS, MX (2002), *Bill Rudd*, WY (2002), and *Richard Ockenfels*, AZ (2002); *Rich Guenzel*, WY (2004), *Alice Koch*, CA (2004), *John Hervert*, AZ (2004), and *Arizona Antelope Foundation* (2004).



ALL NOMINATIONS ARE DUE NO LATER THAN APRIL 30, 2006 and can be submitted either in hard copy or e-mail to **Richard Ockenfels**, Awards Committee Chair, Arizona Game and Fish Department, 2221 W. Greenway Road, Phoenix, Arizona 85023 (rockenfels@azgfd.gov) phone: 602-789-3379. A nomination form can be provided by Richard either by e-mail or via normal mail services, or you can print one from our website, www.azantelope.org

RIFLE RAFFLE

Going on right now, another win-win situation...Your chance to win a rifle and at the same time, benefit Arizona's Pronghorn. Tickets are \$10 each or 3 for \$25. Winner will be drawn at our 3rd Annual Fundraising Banquet, July 22, 2006. (Need not be present to win). To purchase tickets, watch for your flyer in the mail soon, or contact any of the AAF Board members listed in this publication.

**Ruger 25-06 Rifle Mark II Model 77
Includes 4x16 Bushnell Elite 4200 Rifle Scope, bipod and hard case.**

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



2006 FUNDRAISING BANQUET PARTIAL DONATION PROFILE

Your AAF Fundraising Committee is hard at work preparing for this year's banquet. We've already secured some great items for auction and raffle, including 5-day Manitoba, Canada Fishing Trip, Fully Guided Montana Spring Bear Hunt for 2007 or 2008, Arizona Mt. Lion Hunt (non-guided with hounds), Mearns Quail Hunt, Guided New Mexico Armendaris Ranch Management Pronghorn Hunt, Guided New Mexico Armendaris Ranch Trophy Oryx Hunt, Pheasant Extravaganza at Pheasant Recreation, 1 Week at Bahamas Private Beach House, High Desert Hunt Club package, "Desert Lightning" Antelope Bronze, 2-night stay at the Tailfeather Inn in prime pheasant country in North Dakota, John Toner Custom Knife, Diamondback Tickets with Parking Passes, many pieces of art, and lots of hunting, camping, and fishing gear. We even have lots of nice items for our Ladies Raffle. Stay tuned, there's plenty more to come!

If you have items you'd like to donate, please contact Jim Unmacht at 623-570-0534.

VIEWS ON BOOKS

COOL SELECTIONS FOR SUMMER READING

BY DAVID E. BROWN

The temperatures are inching upward, and as a way to escape the summer's heat we'd like to suggest a few books for your reading pleasure.

Carl and Jane Bock's *Sonoita Plain: view from a southwestern grassland* (University of Arizona Press, Tucson) is a geographical extension of "The View From Bald Hill"--a 30 year remembrance of their time on the Audubon Research Ranch near the Arizona prairie town of Sonoita. Illustrated with mini-photographs by astronomer Stephen E. Storm in an off-size 10 x 10 ½ inch format, this 121 page book consists of 19 short, easy-to-read chapters on the grassland's inhabitants, be they plants, animals or people. Nor do the authors, a retired ornithologist and a botanist, ignore the area's cultural history, noting the region's vulnerability to human intrusion and its similarity to the live oak-savannas of California.

This is a celebration of particular grassland more than a description of grasslands. Nonetheless, the early chapters succinctly examine the vagaries of rain and fire—the basic ingredients of all grassland landscapes, the appreciation of which continues to elude most land managers. What follows are thoughtful essays on the natural history of the Sonoita-Elgin area including subjects ranging from Botteri's sparrows and grasshoppers to cows and ciénegas. The passages on forbs (wild flowers) and love grasses are especially informative, and more than make up for an occasional historical lapse (the first pronghorn reintroduction in the area was to nearby Fort Huachuca from Anderson Mesa in the early 1950s). All in all, a highly digestible work on a place every Arizonan should discover sooner rather than later.

What can you call 907 pages containing everything you might ever want to know about pronghorn antelope but an *Encyclopedia Antilocapra!* Weighing a hefty 5 ½

pounds, the 8 ½ x 11 inch *Pronghorn Ecology and Management* by the late Bart W. O'Gara and James D. Yoakum is the most recent wildlife compendium offered by the Wildlife Management Institute—this one published by the University Press of Colorado in Boulder. Divided into five sections on the *Ecology, Biology, Management, Hunting, and Future* of pronghorn, the book contains 23 chapters, 174 tables, and 169 figures--not counting a huge gallery of unnumbered photos.

A reference book for wildlife biologists and pronghorn fanatics, *Pronghorn Ecology* is a source of information rather than entertainment. Most of the chapters nonetheless make for easy reading, the only one requiring a PhD being *Physiology and Genetics*. This mind-boggler is more than compensated for by the section on *Hunting*, which contains some of the best advice on the procurement and care of pronghorn venison that I have yet come across. Extravagantly illustrated, the dozens of historic photos are a delight, many accompanied by captions that make for interesting stories in their own right.

With two exceptions the chapters are authored or co-authored by O'Gara and Yoakum--the world's foremost pronghorn experts. Both men are unusual in that they spent much of their careers primarily working on this one species. Now we get to not only share their nearly 100 years of knowledge, we provided with information gleaned from nearly every pronghorn study conducted. *Pronghorn Ecology and Management* will remain the definitive source of information on this animal for many years to come—perhaps forever, as the costs of publishing such a unique work are increasingly prohibitive.



SHORT SHOTS

MEMBERSHIP RENEWAL

If you haven't yet renewed your membership for 2006, please think about doing so now. If you misplaced your renewal notice, you can print a membership application from our website and send it with your renewal payment. You may also want to consider upgrading your basic membership to a Family, Sustaining or Life Membership at this time.

Your membership dues help us cover the cost of project mailings, newsletters, tools and supplies. All of these provide much needed help to our Arizona pronghorn herds. Your membership benefits include voting rights, eligibility to hold office, membership card, decal, and quarterly issues of this publication. Please renew and help us help antelope!

2 MORE LIFE MEMBERS!

Dale Hislop and Michael Rusing have now joined the ranks of esteemed AAF Life Members.

Why should you add your name to the list? In addition to Regular Membership benefits, purchase of a Life Membership provides a permanent endowment for the welfare of Arizona Pronghorn. You will also receive a beautiful Life Member Plaque, plus recognition in AAF publications and on our website.

ARIZONA BIG GAME SUPER RAFFLE

In our previous edition we told you about this great opportunity for a chance to win one of the coveted Commissioner's Special Tags for pronghorn (or one of eight other species too) for the price of a raffle ticket! The drawing for this raffle will occur **July 8th, 2006** at National Bank of Arizona. The Super Raffle committee must receive all ticket orders by **July 3rd**.

Details can be found on the Super Raffle website:

www.arizonabiggamesuperraffle.com

SPORTSMAN'S EXPO 2006

The AAF teamed up with the WCC and other sportsman's groups to host a booth at this year's show. Despite the inclement weather, a lot of people came through and learned more about our organization's activities. Thanks to Matt & Georgia Massey, Richard Ockenfels, and Sue Foote for volunteering at the booth.

HELPERS NEEDED FOR ADOPT-A-HERD

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. The hope is that we can get volunteers to help locate these animals and report on their welfare. Any recommendations as to how to help these small populations will also be appreciated.

Game Branch Chief Leonard Ordway has identified several critical populations and the Arizona Game and Fish contact people to work with in locating them. Populations include a small number of animals in unit 28 that range on and off of former Supreme Court Justice Sandra Day O'Connor's Lazy B Ranch, a former population in Hualapai Valley, a population of indeterminate size in Unit 27, and remnants of a former transplant to the Hillside area in Unit 20B. There are others, perhaps in your area.

This past month three student volunteers led by Jonathan Handka attempted to locate the pronghorn in the Hillside area. Despite 8 man-days of effort and a flight by Wildlife Manager Matt Peirce to assist in finding the animals, only one buck was located. This means that the population has either disappeared or moved somewhere else. Another finding of the survey was a map of the fences showing that almost all of the fences in the area were "pronghorn unfriendly." Such fences would have to be modified should this area ever be considered for a transplant again.

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.

<p>3rd Annual Fundraising Banquet July 22, 2006</p>



SHORT SHOTS

HORSESHOE RANCH UPDATE

Thanks to the hard work of Past President Jim Unmacht we should soon have the Horseshoe Ranch in Unit 21 back as our Adopt-A-Ranch in that unit. The majority of antelope in this unit are on the ranch. This makes having the Horseshoe Ranch in our Adopt-A-Ranch program important to the AAF!

14TH ANNUAL HUNTER CLINIC DATE SET

Mark your calendars for the 14th Annual Hunter Clinic which will be held August 15th, 2006 at the Sportsman's Warehouse at I-17 & Yorkshire in Phoenix. Last year over 100 people attended, and hunters and their guests were treated to a wide variety of presentations on subjects important to the outcome of their upcoming hunts. We plan on having another great slate of speakers again this year to give you pointers on what to do, and why!

If you're an AAF member, come out and visit our fellow AAF members and it won't cost you anything. Non-members will be charged a nominal fee, which can be applied to an AAF membership.

Watch future editions of the *Pronghorn* and our website for more news on this upcoming event.

www.azantelope.org

ANNUAL BOQUILLAS RANCH CLEANUP

The 14th annual Boquillas Ranch Clean-up has been set for Saturday, June 24th. Times are from 8 am until 5 pm. Each year the *Mohave Sportsman Club*, in conjunction with the *Arizona Game & Fish Department*, holds a one-day clean up event on the Boquillas. In exchange for the clean up effort, the Navajo Nation, which owns the sprawling 730,000 acre ranch in Unit 10, allows ALL recreational users access on the ranch for another year.

Participants will meet at Pica Camp, receive a briefing from Tim Pender, the wildlife manager for the unit, then grab some plastic bags and head off.

To get to Pica Camp from Kingman, take Highway 66 to mile post 123, turn left (north) and go two miles. For more information on the clean up, contact Don Martin at (928) 753-4867.

COMMISSIONER'S SPECIAL TAG BRINGS IN \$65,000!

As previously reported, the AZ Game & Fish Commission granted all three pronghorn Special Tags to the AAF. Two have been designated for auctions and the third is included in the AZ Big Game Super Raffle.

The first auction tag was sold at the Arizona Desert Bighorn Sheep Society Banquet on March 4th for \$65,000.

The second auction tag is set to be sold at the AAF Banquet on July 22nd. Phone bids are welcome, so if you're interested, contact any Board member or the AAF for information. You can obtain contact information at www.azantelope.org or call 623-570-0534.

WE NEED YOUR HELP!

It takes a lot to put on a successful Fundraising Banquet. Our dedicated, hard-working committee members already have the pieces in place, but need help executing the plan for our July 22nd event in Phoenix. There are many ways to help, both large and small. Come to one of our committee meetings to find out what might fit with your abilities and/or time.

We can also use donations of all sorts, including art, collector items, hunting/fishing/camping gear, golf, dinners, décor items, even items for the lady of the house. An added bonus is all donations are tax deductible to the full extent of the IRS laws governing 501(C)(3) organizations. If you have something to donate, please contact Jim Unmacht at 623-570-0534 or bring them to one of our meetings:

May 16 th	6:30 PM	Home of David Hussey
June 12 th	5:30 PM	Phoenix Zoo
July 10 th	5:30 PM	Phoenix Zoo
July 19 th	6:30 PM	Home of Jim Unmacht

Hope to see you there!





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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	April 10 6:30 PM May 8 6:30 PM June 12	The Phoenix Zoo 455 N. Galvin Parkway
AAF Work Projects	May 20 June 17	Big Lake Anderson Mesa
The Wildlife Conservation Council Board Meetings	April 25 6:30 PM May 23 6:30 PM June 27 6:30 PM	AZ Game & Fish Department 2221 W. Greenway Rd
AAF Fundraising Banquet	July 22	El Zaribah Shrine
AAF Hunter Clinic	August 15	Sportsman's Warehouse Phoenix

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.