



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

Arizona Antelope Foundation members were busy this summer with projects and a really successful fundraiser! Thank you to all our donors and to those who attended. Your generosity made the 5th Annual (Yes-five years already!) Arizona Antelope Foundation fundraiser banquet one of our best yet! AAF once again is sponsoring Hunt of a Lifetime (HOAL) with a percentage of the banquet proceeds. We hope we can help another young person experience the thrill of a pronghorn antelope hunt.

The willingness of our hunter and conservationist community to give selflessly both their money and their time in these days of economic uncertainty is truly awesome.

The Arizona Antelope Foundation motto: "Libertas ad Vagor" ... Freedom to Roam is the battle cry for the Western Governor's Association wildlife linkages and corridors initiative. The AAF has contacted Patagonia, the company that has been helping to rally conservation efforts to assure that pronghorn and other big game animals will always have the freedom to roam. We hope to include the Arizona Antelope Foundation in this western effort and most certainly we will continue to support projects in Arizona that will keep pronghorn habitat linked together.

Our volunteer projects provide a significant contribution. When we roll up a fence, cut trees that have invaded grassland and modify a fence so pronghorn can more easily pass through we make a difference. These efforts distinguish the Arizona Antelope Foundation as a member organization that really gets out there with sleeves rolled up.

I hope each and every one of you will make the effort to join us on a work project. The day of work is rewarding



and there is true satisfaction when you can look at what was accomplished. It is even better when you spot a herd of pronghorn nearby. Affirmation that what you are doing matters!

There are exciting opportunities in the wind for Arizona Antelope Foundation and the conservation and management of pronghorn in Arizona. We have great projects with new and old ranch partners in the coming months and we have been really pleased with preliminary project proposals for the tag account funds.

I hope this fall finds you in the field with rifle or bow and arrow. Luck to you all during the hunting seasons and thanks again for helping the Arizona Antelope Foundation give back by helping pronghorn thrive in Arizona.

Tice Supplee

ON THE COVER



Photo credits for this edition's cover go to AAF member Terry Herndon. Terry is an Arizona native, antelope guide and amateur photographer. He loves to photograph all kinds of animals, but antelope are his all time favorite! This particular photo was taken while scouting in Unit 17A. "This little buck was in a non hunting area and I really thought his ivory tips were pretty. I love the color of these animals and this guy had a lot to show."

Thanks for the great photo Terry!

PARTNERS RESTORE WETLANDS ON ANDERSON MESA

BY HENRY PROVENCIO

WILDLIFE BIOLOGIST COCONINO NATIONAL FOREST

The Arizona Wildlife Federation received a \$100,000 National Forest Foundation (NFF) grant to install wetland fencing on Coconino NF. The fencing is designed to protect and restore wetlands and grasslands on Anderson Mesa.

NFF grants require a 50%, non federal, dollar for dollar match. The Arizona Wildlife Federation, with major contributions from the Arizona Game and Fish Department and the Arizona Antelope Foundation, exceeded the required \$100,000 match for a total 2008 contribution of \$219,000!

Anderson Mesa is located within Coconino NF southeast of Flagstaff, Arizona. Naturally formed wetlands occur along the entire length of the mesa and are important to migratory birds, elk, deer, and antelope. The new wetland fencing is designed to allow wildlife safer passage either over or under fences and restrict livestock access to a small portion of the wetlands.

Wetland fencing will increase cover for waterfowl nesting and reduce disturbance and juvenile mortality and will also improve conditions for pronghorn antelope. When nursing, pronghorn does spend more time close to permanent water sources. Since many of the wetland fences extend well beyond the waters edge, pronghorn will also benefit from an increase in fawn cover adjacent to wetlands.

In 2008, 7.8 miles of wildlife friendly fence will be installed around five wetlands on Anderson Mesa with an additional seven miles of old fencing being removed by volunteers. This is in addition to the 24 miles of wetland fencing already completed by Arizona Wildlife Federation, Arizona Game and Fish Department, Forest Service, and the Diablo Trust ranches.

Arizona Wildlife Federation's grant proposal

scored high due to the hundreds of volunteer hours from other agencies, sportsman and civic organizations and is part of a larger landscape effort to restore Anderson Mesa. Volunteers have removed and repaired old fencing and cut hundreds of junipers encroaching on Anderson Mesa's grasslands.

Over 60,000 acres of restoration work has been accomplished so far.

Before construction of these wetland fences, range managers were restricted to grazing pastures at the same time every year potentially reducing the vegetative diversity of the Mesa. The wetland fences will allow range managers more flexibility in implementing rest-rotation grazing strategies that should provided greater diversity and overall health of the ecosystem.

With matching grants from the National Forest Foundation and the energy and enthusiasm of individual volunteers and partners like Arizona Wildlife Federation, Arizona Game and Fish Department, Diablo Trust, and Arizona Antelope Foundation everyone can have a hand in "Caring for the Land and Serving People."

Editor's Note: Henry Provencio has been awarded "Government Agency Conservation Champion" from the AZ Wildlife Federation (AWF). Henry has been instrumental in the great success of the Anderson Mesa Wetlands Restoration Project. He believes his most rewarding experience to date has been working with volunteers and partners restoring habitat on Anderson Mesa. Awards Chairman, John Underwood said, "AWF considers the work Henry has done, a great benefit to conservation and habitat for wildlife." Henry is the husband of Heather Provencio, district ranger of Red Rock RD.



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LONESOME GEORGE AND HILLSIDE'S REAPPEARING PRONGHORN

BY DAVID E. BROWN & MATTHEW F. PEIRCE



Biologists have calculated that a population of 200 pronghorn has an 18% chance of disappearing in any given year due to a climatic or other catastrophe. A corollary to this hypothesis is that any antelope population of 25 animals or less will disappear

within a decade.

One place that used to have a lot of antelope is the Hillside-Kirkland area of Yavapai County where Pauline Weaver killed a pronghorn on a hill now known as Antelope Peak. Indeed, antelope were a common landscape feature along the Kirkland Creek watershed until the area's settlement by miners, goat ranchers and livestock operators. Combined with commercial hunters, these pioneers took a heavy toll on the land and its wildlife. By the time of statehood, such local landmarks as Antelope Creek were more commemorative than descriptive.

However, by the 1980s the situation was looking more favorable. The human population in this part of Yavapai County was fewer than formerly, and much of the area around Hillside was no longer being so heavily grazed. Although such woody plants as mesquite, mimosa, and junipers had invaded a lot of what used to be open grassland, and a lot of fences partitioned the land, the thought was that the country may have recovered enough to again support a limited number of pronghorn.

A preliminary evaluation by Wildlife Manager Patty

Glinski showed about 40 square miles of black lava plains and hills covered in low shrubs and tobosa grass that might qualify as moderately good pronghorn range (Fig. 1). Given another 60 square miles of marginal habitat, and the possibility of an overall population density of two pronghorn per square mile, the hope was that somewhere between 100 and 200 antelope might be accommodated. Nearly all of the land was owned by the state of Arizona and leased for cattle grazing.

So it was that on December 6, 1984, 51 pronghorn from Douglas, Wyoming, were released just outside of Hillside—23 bucks and 28 does (Map 1). Post-release surveys over the next few years showed as many as 36 pronghorn being present, a number that held up through the spring of 1987 when observations began dropping. Only 22 animals were seen on January 6, 1993, and the following month another 54 animals from Wyoming were released—5 bucks, 27 does, and 22 fawns—a total release of 110 animals. Unfortunately, these additional pronghorn made no difference. Only about a dozen antelope were seen on surveys in January 1996 and 1997.

The Hillside area had been part of Matt Peirce's district since 1989, and he was the manager who oversaw the releases and conducted the surveys. Reluctant to concede that "his pronghorn" were disappearing, Matt continued to record and follow up on any reports of pronghorn in the Hillside area. Fearful that the few bucks present may have succumbed to predators or wandered off, he oversaw the release of an additional five bucks from Parker Mountain, Utah, on December 17, 1998. But to no avail. Aerial survey sightings through 2005 never exceeded a total of only



Fig. 1

Map 1

(Continued on page 17)

5TH ANNUAL FUNDRAISING BANQUET SUCCESS

July 19th marked our 5th annual fundraising banquet at El Zaribah Shrine in Phoenix. We had a sell-out crowd of 300 people who bid on Silent and Live Auction items and purchased tickets to various raffles and drawings. Those purchases helped raise just over \$47,000 for the Foundation. In addition, the AZGF Commissioners Special Antelope tag was auctioned for \$67,500, which tied the all-time highest bid!

Our banquet was also the host for the 2008 Arizona Big Game Super Raffle drawing. Ten lucky winners were drawn and announced, and our audience was treated to hearing their excited responses when they were called and notified of the news.

A special thanks is extended to all the fundraising committee members, donors, volunteers, and everyone else who contributed their time and hard-earned dollars to make this year's efforts such a great success!



Rifle Raffle winner Don Davidson



2008 Banquet Chair and AAF President Tice Supplee (r) pictured with Ken Alexander



Photos by Jim Unmacht & Jimmy Mehen

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Outfitter Satellite
Polar Brothers
PSE
River Palms
Riverside Resort
RMEF
Sportsman's Warehouse
Wells Fargo
Yellowhorn Outfitters

WHITE MTS. PROJECT REPORT JULY 26-27

BY DAVE CAGLE, AZ GAME & FISH

The AAF had a great turnout of 35 motivated participants for this project, and they all worked hard to cut pinyon and juniper trees that were invading pronghorn occupied meadows.

The project area is critical elk winter range and is also utilized year round by a transplanted pronghorn population. The pronghorn source stock was from Utah, and two releases occurred on the nearby Sipe White Mountain Wildlife Area about ten years ago. Approximately 30 pronghorn currently occupy suitable habitat surrounding the wildlife area. Most of the openings are prone to pinyon and juniper encroachment, and routine small tree removal efforts can only increase the long-term survival of this pronghorn herd. The Department previously recognized the need to rehabilitate meadows in order to retain and enhance grasslands habitats. In 2006 and 2007 we hired summer interns with a primary task to mechanically clear meadows on and immediately



adjacent to Sipe Wildlife Area, located about three miles south of the AAF project site. The AAF project completed on this weekend meshes well with the meadow restoration work efforts previously conducted by the interns.

During Saturday and Sunday, approximately 120 acres of meadow was treated with chain saws, pruners and hand saws. Mid-sized and small trees were removed in several meadows experiencing noticeable tree encroachment immediately adjacent to camp. The results left a more savanna appearance where large trees were retained, and removed smaller trees will allow for more release of grasses and forbs. Another large meadow was attacked, mostly with hand tools. That meadow was first cut by the AAF in the late 1990's, and knee sized trees were widely dispersed across this old project site. The removal of these small trees confirms the need to periodically revisit old project sites to retain the Plains Grasslands habitat characteristics required by so many wildlife species.



Photos by Jim Unmacht

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(Continued from page 8)

Volunteers came from around the state and included Bob Blassing, Ken Kerr, Jim Glover, Dan Fadden, Bill & Johanna Bolt, Ladon Warner, Pat McFall, Mary Love, Bob Krogh, Al & Marsha Sue, Neal Brown Whitney White, TJ Slezak, Warren Adams, Art Boswell, Mark Boswell, Kyler & Zachary Boswell, Jim Plos, Aaron Krone, Elizabeth Stewart, Ken Langford, Kirk Parker, Cecil & Carlota Schmitz, Scott Anderson, Jim & Tracy Unmacht, Tice Supplee, Bill & Mary Keebler, Dave Cagle, AZGFD.

Thanks for all your help!!



HUNTING SHOTS



Top left: Brian Arbon Unit 10 taken at 205 yards

Top right: Bill Forbes AZ Unit 34B taken at 75 yards, gross score 84 1/2. This buck had 20 does with him



Left: 16 year old Cody Vander Weyst Unit 10 taken at 200 yards, green scored 82

THANKS FOR SHARING!

Editor's Note: We received more photos and stories than we had room for in this edition, so look for more shots in our next issue. If you have a photo and/or story you'd like to share, send good quality digital photos to info@azantelope.org

CONSERVATION AWARDS

The AAF recognized Dr. Richard (Rick) Miller for his contributions in recovering the pronghorn population on Anderson Mesa. Beginning in 2001, and continuing on to the present time, Rick has actively solicited funds, volunteers, and contract labor to materially improve Anderson Mesa and adjacent habitats for pronghorn. That these efforts have been successful is largely due to Rick's meticulous planning and willingness to make numerous presentations to private working groups, government agencies and public organizations including Board of Director Meetings of the Arizona Antelope Foundation. As of 2007, these solicitations and coordination efforts resulted in:

- Approximately 500 miles of fence being inventoried and improved with goat bars
- The rebuilding of 33 miles of fence
- The removal of invasive trees and treatment of approximately 42,641 acres (66 square miles on U. S. Forest Service and state lands
- Working in partnership with the Diablo Trust to fund contract work and obtain matching monies to fund much of the above
- Influencing the "wait and see" burn decision that let the Lizard, Mormon and Jacket wild fires burn and thereby improve an additional 25,000 acres of antelope habitat
- The completion of 5433 acres of archaeological surveys allowing the Coconino National Forest to enter into a program agreement with the State Historic Preservation Office to authorize an additional 21,000 acres for mechanical treatment of pinyon-juniper in former grasslands
- Fenced 11 ephemeral lakes have been fenced in a manner which should benefit ducks, wading birds and pronghorn by allowing access via high bottom wires.

Rick not only arranged for the funding and conduct of these projects with such cooperators as Henry Provencio of the Coconino National Forest; The Diablo Trust; ranchers John, Henry, and Jack Metzger; and Bob Prosser, he personally supervised all of these projects in the field. For these efforts and more, we owe Rick Miller a debt of gratitude. *Rick was nominated by David Brown*



President Tice Supple with Rick Miller



Past President Dave Laird with David Brown

The AAF also recognized Dr. David E. Brown for his many contributions to pronghorn conservation and education. David's interest in pronghorn has been long-standing. His first publication on pronghorn was in 1982, and he continued to publish work on pronghorn through 2007, when he co-authored a general publication on pronghorn in Arizona. His name appears more often than any other in the literature section of the recently published AAF book "*Arizona's Pronghorn Antelope: A Conservation Legacy*".

He has published scientific articles from original research, reviews of literature on pronghorn, and numerous popular articles on the species. David is a charter and Life member of the AAF, has served on the Board of Directors since its inception, and is a past president of the organization. He has been the most active member in ensuring articles for the Foundation's newsletter and in conservation actions, including writing numerous letters regarding conservation of pronghorn to state and federal agencies.

David's accomplishments with pronghorn can go on and on. He is very deserving to be recognized by the AAF Board as a recipient of the Conservation Award. *David was nominated by Richard Ockenfels*

SLATE MOUNTAIN PRONGHORN RESTORATION PROJECT

When you read about the amount of money raised by the auction and raffle of the special Commissioner Tags, you may wonder what it actually means for antelope and other species in Arizona. This project, which took place in Unit 7, is but one example of how those funds are put to work. Cooperating agencies and conservation groups included the Coconino National Forest-Peaks Ranger District, Arizona Antelope Foundation, Rocky Mountain Elk Foundation, Arizona Elk Society, and Babbitt Ranches. Approximately 225 acres of encroaching junipers in the more northern opening around Slate Lake were lopped and scattered. The result should mean increased visibility for Pronghorn in important summer and fawning habitat, as well as probable increased forb production from lopped and scattered juniper trees for pronghorn, elk and deer. Below are before and after photos.



Before thinning



After thinning



MYSTERY PHOTO



Do you recognize this photo?

Pronghorn contributor David Brown came across this interesting photo of pronghorn apparently following a snow plow in what might be the winter of 1966-67. He doesn't know who took this photo or where the location is.

If you can identify the photographer and place, or would like to come up with a humorous caption, please send us an email at info@azantelope.org. We will publish submissions in our next issue.



SONORAN PRONGHORN UPDATE



BY JILL BRIGHT AZ GAME & FISH
AUGUST, 2008

Captive Breeding:

North Half: We had 2 more unexplained mortalities in the north half of the pen. On August 6, a yearling buck was found dead, and largely scavenged by vultures. Three days later, a doe fawn was found dead. Both these animals were seen alive one day, and then were dead and mostly scavenged the next day. There were no signs of predation or injury. We suspect it may be from disease, but there was not enough left of the carcasses for testing. About this same time last year, and under similar climatic conditions, we had an adult buck die, whose necropsy indicated EHD. This disease is spread by a biting midge that needs a wet, muddy substrate with emergent weedy vegetation to complete its lifecycle. Outbreaks of the midge are common during the hot and humid monsoon season. It had rained around the pen about a week before the deaths. It has also rained over ½ inch at the pen in the last week. Charlie Bell forage plot received 1 ½ inches of rain. These rains should green up the forage in the pen and forage plots.

South Half: All the pronghorn are doing well.

Status of Pronghorn in Pen

(M = Male, F = Female)

	Wild pronghorn put into the pen	2005 recruitment	2006 recruitment	2007 recruitment	2008 recruitment	TOTAL in pen
NORTH HALF						
In Pen	5F, 1M	2F		4F, 5M	13 fawns	29
Released		4M	3M			
SOUTHWEST						
In Pen	5F		2F, 1M	3F, 2M	12 fawns	25
Released			2M			
						54

2008 Released Males: On the last telemetry flight, one of the released males (451) was with several other wild pronghorn on South Tac. 851 has not been heard with telemetry since March 30, when he was on the northwest edge of North Tac.

2007 Released Males: Nothing new to report.

Water Projects: Nothing new to report.

Forage Enhancements: We have been irrigating at all the forage plots. However, we had recent rains, so we will be suspending irrigation until needed.

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Other Projects: We are still moving forward with the preliminary steps for establishing a second population. We are also working on building a new forage enhancement site on the Marine side of the BMGR, near the Devil's Hills water. We took the archaeologist out to show her where the well site will be so she can complete the cultural clearances.

Wild Pronghorn: On our last telemetry flight (August 17) we found 7 pronghorn on South Tac, 7 on the east side of the Growler Mountains, 4 on the west side of San Cristobal Valley, and 6 south of the Point of the Pintas water. One radio-collared doe still appears to be south of the Agua Dulce Mountains, in Mexico, but we have not verified that yet.

Personnel: We now only have 2 of the 4 positions filled and the state government is under a hiring freeze. However, we were able to get exemptions to the freeze, and are in the process of recruiting people for these positions.



Uncollared buck and doe at the water at Granite Mountains forage plot. August 8, 2008



Collared and uncollared does at Granite Mountains water, May 2008.

MY ANTELOPE HUNT

BY JOHNATHAN CARDONA

My dad and I hunted in unit 18B. We left home on Thursday night and I shot mine Friday morning (opening day) at about 7:30 a.m! What a fun hunt! We spotted my antelope from about a mile away. My friend, Regan, helped me stalk it and eventually I had a 375 yard shot. I got down on my belly and took my best shot (literally!). He went down the first shot! My friend and I high-fived and with another shot my hunt was over! My dad was watching from where I started my stalk through his spotting scope. He came running! After we finished field dressing and taking care of my antelope, we continued hunting to fill my dad's tag. At 10:20 my dad took a 150 yard shot at his antelope. He didn't realize how big it was until we got home! Here are some pictures to show you! We scored mine at about 75 and my dad's rough score (with deductions) is 90 4/8. We are waiting to have him officially scored when his antlers come back from the taxidermist! What an exciting hunt!



Photos show Johnathan, age 14 (top) and his dad Keith

PRONGHORN AGING STUDY

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. Below are the results from 2007. Thanks to all the hunters who submitted teeth for this analysis.

If you are fortunate enough to hunt antelope this fall, you can help us with this study by sending us a tooth from your animal. Look for more information on the study and how you can help on our website www.azantelope.org

Ages of hunter killed pronghorn during 2007 season

Hunter	State	GMU	BC score	SCI score	Score system Unknown	Age
Chad Corbin	AZ	19	92 1/4	94 3/8		3
Cody Priddy	AZ	10	90 1/4	94 3/4		5
Dave Brown	AZ	10	84 1/4	85		3
Dillon Currie	AZ	10	88	88 1/2		6
Jack Himes	AZ	10	90 1/2	93 7/8		4
John Schabow	AZ	19	87 1/2	87 3/4		4
Julius Fortuna	AZ	13A	77	80 3/8		2
Mark Hartman	AZ	7	85	85 3/4		5
Mark Hartman, Jr.	AZ	7	75	76		3
Mat Fortuna	AZ	13A	77 3/8	80 3/8		2
Paul Scott	AZ	18A	81 1/2	86 5/8		6
Shawn Friesen	AZ	19	94 1/4	97 1/4		4
Troy Holyoak	AZ	10	89	90 1/4		3
Aaron Johnson	CO	Bijou		70 1/2		4
DeWayne Sanders	CO	Bijou		61 7/8		3
Doyle Heaton	CO	Bijou		67		3
Gary Rayback	CO	Bijou		58 7/8		2
John Vanko	CO	13		75 1/2		7
John Vanko	CO	13		84 1/2		5
Kevin Saunders	CO	Bijou		58 5/8		2
Matt Agius	CO	Bijou		67 1/4		2
Roger Reaume	CO	Bijou		72 1/8		5
Ted Agius	CO	Bijou		67 1/2		Broken
Ted Langston	CO	Bijou		66 3/8		2
Tom Agius	CO	Bijou		65 1/8		4
Tony Sun	CO	E. Cu		65 1/2		2
Shawn Friesen	NM	37	84 1/4	85 3/4		4
Adem Blanken B.	NM	ARM	68 1/4			12
Al Thanhauser	NM	36	87 1/2	93 1/8		3
Andy Morrison	NM	n.e.			?	4
Art Porter	NM	ARM	69 3/4			2
Bill Rusch	NM	n.e.			?	9
Billy Rhodes	NM	n.e.			80 1/4	3
Clint Walker	NM	ARM	78 5/8			5
Dale Bernard	NM	56			?	4
Dave Westrum	NM	36	81	81 3/4		2
Dean Beaman	NM	ARM	74 1/2			5
Dean Branscum	NM	45	80 1/4	80 5/8		3
Dennis Pierce	NM	37	84	85 1/8		3

Ages of hunter killed pronghorn during 2007 season

Hunter	State	GMU	BC score	SCI score	Score system Unknown	Age
Fran. Sada, Jr.	NM	ARM	67			3
Fran. Sada, Sr	NM	ARM	73			3
Frank Victorino	NM	20	85 3/4	86 3/8		3
Glade Cook	NM	ARM	72 3/8			8
Greg Miller	NM	57			?	3
Guy Tittle	NM	n.e.			?	3
Hardy Jackson	NM	n.e.			81 1/8	5
Howard Langley	NM	n.e.			75 1/4	3
Jake Westrum	NM	36	79 1/2	83 3/8		5
James P. Wells	NM	57		77		3
Jason Beck	NM	20	81 1/4	82 1/4		3
Jeff Puhl	NM	53	76	76 3/4		2
Jeff Tolin	NM	ARM	70			2
Jerry Martin	NM	36	84 3/4	85 1/2		4
Jerry McPherson	NM	n.e.			67 3/8	6
Jim Clark	NM	ARM	71			11
John Conway	NM	n.e.		79 1/4		6
Kathy Haines	NM	53	80	84 7/8		3
Kenneth Clark	NM	n.e.			79 7/8	6
Kevin Rogers	NM	ARM	68 5/8			17
Lyn Burleson	NM	45	84 1/2	85 5/8		7
Mark Little	NM	53	76 1/2	77 1/2		2
Merle Samson	NM	57			?	2
Michael Domenico	NM	ARM	68 1/2			9
Mike Basha	NM	ARM	69 1/2			6
Mike Golightly	NM	ARM	72 7/8			10
Mike Little	NM	36	83 3/8	87 3/4		2
Mike Porter	NM	ARM	73 1/8			4
Mike Wieck	NM	45	82 1/4	83 1/2		5
Nelson McCarter	NM	n.e.			80 3/8	3
Paul Wallenman	NM	37	87 1/2	93 1/8		6
Pete Huckins	NM	45	80	83 1/8		2
Randy Beck	NM	20	81 1/4	82 3/4		2
Randy Presly	NM	n.e.			72	3
Rich Pierce	NM	37	88 3/4	93 1/4		4
Rob L Armanasco	NM	55			?	3
Rob Silliman	NM	n.e.		77		4
Roy Lecy	NM	36	83 3/8	84 1/8		3
Scott Bunily	NM	ARM	68			12
Scott Golightly	NM	ARM	69 3/8			8
Sonny Hackett	NM	10			?	3
Steve Blankenship	NM	36	81 1/8	86 1/8		5
Steve Rohrbach	NM	20	84 3/4	88 3/4		3
Suzanne Gilstrap	NM	ARM	69 1/4			10
Todd Romsa	NM	37	87 1/2	90 7/8		4
Tom Hanna	NM	36	85 3/4	87		4
Troy Redenbo	NM	n.e.		69 3/4		4
Wayne Bugen	NM	ARM	60 1/8			3
Wes Langley	NM	n.e.			72 1/4	3
William Burns	NM	ARM	79			10

23RD BIENNIAL PRONGHORN WORKSHOP AWARDS

The Berrendo Award is the most significant award given out at the Biennial Pronghorn Workshop, which is a sanctioned & sponsored event by the Western Association of Fish and Wildlife Agencies--to which the Arizona Game and Fish Department is a member. The Association covers the western U.S., western Canadian provinces, and northern Mexican states, all of which have pronghorn within their boundaries.

The award has been given out 4 times. In 2002, the first award was to Dr. Jim Yoakum (retired BLM biologist from Nevada); in 2004, Dr. Bart O'Gara (deceased; retired professor in Montana) was the recipient; in 2006, Tom Pojar (retired researcher from Colorado) was the last one awarded the Berrendo Award before this year; in 2008, retired AZGFD researcher Richard Ockenfels was awarded the Berrendo Award at the 23rd Pronghorn Workshop in Canmore, Alberta, Canada.



Congratulations Richard!

The other award by the Pronghorn Workshop is a Special Recognition Award, for which Arizona has numerous recipients, including the Arizona Antelope Foundation. Foundation Board Member, and Past President, Dave Brown, received a Special Recognition Award in 2008 for his lead role in the newest update of the Pronghorn Management Guidelines and his numerous publications on pronghorn management and ecology. Previous recipients from Arizona include Richard Ockenfels, John Hervert (AZGFD Yuma), Dr. Rick Miller (AZGFD Flagstaff).

The award system for the Pronghorn Workshop was the brainchild of former Research Branch Chief Jim DeVos and research biologist Richard Ockenfels, in 2000. The system was modeled after the successful deer/elk workshop awards, also sanctioned by the Western Association of Fish and Wildlife Agencies.

NEW LIFE MEMBERS

31. Randy Cherington, Scottsdale
32. Joe Del Re, Chandler

33. Bob Walker, Phoenix
34. Cookie Nicoson, Williams

WELCOME NEW MEMBERS

David Arbo, Chandler
Josiah & Valer Austin, Pearce
Bob Blassingzone, Pinetop
William Cullins, Chandler
Mark Dowd, Mesa
Dan Fadden, Show Low
Jim Glover, Pinetop
Warren Hendricks, Surprise
Todd Hulm, Goodyear
Keith Joyner, Scottsdale
Aaron Krone, Mesa
Javier Lopez, Mesa
Mary Love, Peoria

Pat McFall, Peoria
Tod Molesworth, Marana
Jim Rufh, Scottsdale
Rick Rzendzian, Scottsdale
TJ Slezak, Phoenix
Elizabeth Stewart, Mesa
Kevin Thomas, Mesa
Ron Thompson, Phoenix,
Jerry Thorson, Mesa
Frank Walsh, Green Valley
Ladon Warner, Snowflake
Whitney White, Phoenix
Mark Wulff, Gilbert

(Continued from page 5)

a dozen or so antelope. Then, on his scheduled survey in January, 2006, Matt only saw two bucks. Conventional wisdom had been proven right, The Hillside population, never numbering more than three dozen antelope, had “winked out.”

Nonetheless, local residents kept reporting antelope in the Hillside area. Our interest piqued, we wondered if any pronghorn were still left, and if so, where were they? To try and find out, two students and retired Game Management Division Chief Paul Webb volunteered to go to Hillside and search for them. But although they reported seeing tracks and brought back some suspicious looking droppings, they saw no antelope. To confirm the pronghorn’s absence, we made our own search of the Grandview Area. The only antelope we saw was a lone buck just east of Hillside that we christened “*Lonesome George*” after the George Goebel television character (Map 1).

Matt next saw *Lonesome George* during the 2006 deer season, a sighting that was also reported by several local residents. And, when Matt flew his aerial survey in January along 0.5 minute grids, the only antelope seen was a buck that was within ¼ mile of where we had seen *Lonesome George*. It looked like the end of the line for Hillside’s antelope.

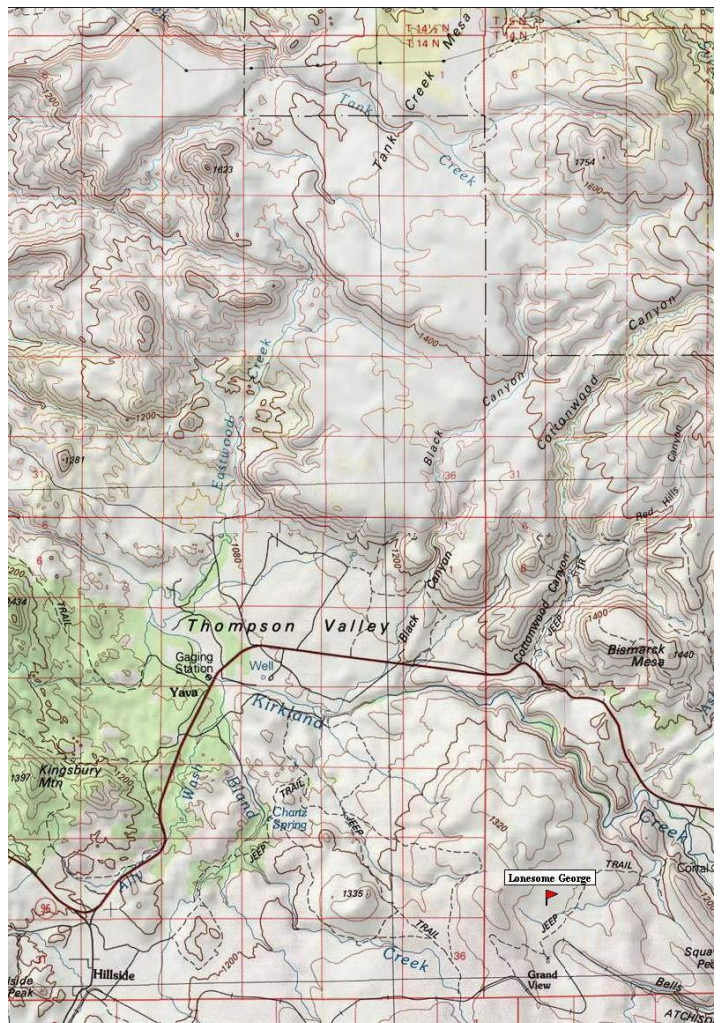
In retrospect, the pronghorn transplants to the Hillside area were premature. Not enough habitat was in suitable condition, and selected pastures should have been burned or cleared of brush before attempting a restoration. The area’s fences should have been inventoried and those needing modification should have had their lower strands made “pronghorn friendly.” It would probably also have been beneficial to have had some coyote control efforts in place *prior* to the translocations. As it was, the only predator control conducted was an aerial gunning effort in the springs of 1985 and 1987, which removed 16 and 14 coyotes respectively. But such is all 30:30 hindsight, the range conditions between Kirkland and Yava were indeed better than formerly, and pronghorn transplants have always occurred when animals were available, not when habitats were available.

Then something strange happened. Reports of antelope in the Hillside area were again coming in.. In January 2007, Matt received a credible report of 14 pronghorn west of Hillside and north of the Atchison Topeka and Santa Fe railroad tracks. Where did these animals come from? Matt suspected that some of the Hillside pronghorn had gone to Bismarck Mesa, which is north of the Kirkland-Hillside highway. Pronghorn had been seen in that area shortly after the initial Hillside transplant, and it was not unreasonable that some of the animals had gone off in that direction despite there being a lot of brush and a plethora of fences in the way. Could this have been where the 14 pronghorn had come from?

Matt had noticed that the number of antelope seen on summer fixed-wing surveys had begun to decline four to

five years after the transplant, while midwinter survey numbers remained stable. Could it be possible that some of the herd was periodically leaving the Hillside area. Matt asked then Region III Game Specialist Art Fuller where the closest known antelope habitat to Hillside was. Art replied that that would be Tank Creek Mesa northeast of Hillside, and that the Region’s June 1990 survey showed 61 pronghorn on Tank Creek Mesa—an increase of 23 from the previous year! Interestingly, Matt had seen 24 antelope on June 29, 1988. Could it be that the 1 Hillside herd had somehow maintained a connection with another small population on Tank Creek Mesa?

Curious as to what this connection might look like, we took a trip to Bismarck Mesa on May 12, 2007. Although the rougher country surrounding the mesa was in reasonable condition, range conditions on Bismarck Mesa were less than ideal. There was no sign of the 14 pronghorn reported earlier, and the only antelope tracks we saw on Bismarck Mesa were those of a lone buck. Looking toward the north, however, we could see the tantalizing tan of the grass covered Tank Creek, Behem, and Bozarth mesas (Map 2). Could these mesas be where Hillside’s pronghorn were hiding?



Map 2

(Continued on page 18)

(Continued from page 17)

These mesas were all in Region III and mostly in Wildlife Manager Micah White's district. As enthusiastic about "his pronghorn" as Matt, Micah eagerly showed Paul Webb and David plenty of pronghorn on Behem and Bozarth mesas, but Tank Creek Mesa was "off limits" due to locked gates on private land. He had seen no pronghorn on Tank Creek Mesa during his aerial surveys out of Bagdad, however, and the ruggedness of the country between there and Hillside would appear to preclude any regular exchange of pronghorn between the two areas. In the meantime, reports had been received of three or four antelope again being in the Hillside area.

Looking for *Lonesome George* and the Hillside antelope became a hobby project. Wanting a hike, David and his granddaughter Brianna went looking for *Lonesome George* during Christmas vacation 2007. And, lo and behold, in the same pasture where we had seen him several times before, were the fresh tracks of a buck antelope and three does! *Lonesome George*, however, was not up to a personal appearance.

Not too long afterwards, Matt was again receiving reports of a buck antelope and three does near Hillside. Finally, on May 6, 2008, he located the four pronghorn near Grandview in a little visited pasture north of the railroad tracks. His identification was positive despite his attempt to hike closer being thwarted by an approaching thunderstorm. *Lonesome George* was not only back he had a small harem with him.

Eager to check on *Lonesome George's* present status, we traveled to Grandview on July 23, 2008 to see just

what it was he was up to. Hiking through the same pasture where Matt had seen him earlier, we could not help but notice how kind the rains had been. In addition to the malpai strewn pasture having been treated to the unusual boon of a May downpour, the summer monsoon had been generous. Pronghorn foods—globe mallow, ragweed, and partridge pea grew in profusion. Approaching a small rise, our confidence in seeing *Lonesome George* soared. Given the abundance of forage, he and his girl friends were sure to be in the largest and safest open space the pasture had to offer.

We were not disappointed. He was just where we predicted he would be, standing stiff-legged, watching us as antelope do. The only problem was that there were only two does with him. Had one of the ladies succumbed to a predator? Or was she off tending a fawn somewhere? *Lonesome George* wasn't saying. As we approached him from the east, one of the does began angling off to the south, leading her two comrades away from us. When pressed further, the trio headed off to the west in the direction of Hillside, leaving us no clue as to where they had come from or when they might next disappear.

To solve this mystery we need to put a satellite radio collar on *Lonesome George* and track his movements. Only then will we learn where he goes and where his does come from. Perhaps the area delineated as pronghorn habitat in the Hillside area is greater than we thought. More importantly, we may be able to find out if there is indeed an interchange of pronghorn between Region III and Hillside. If so, pronghorn are a lot more flexible in their movements than we thought.





SHORT SHOTS

2009 IMPORTANT DATES

March 7-8 Work Project Ash Creek Ranch
May 16-17 Work Project Yavapai Ranch
June 16 17th Annual Hunter Clinic
July 18 6th Annual Fundraising Banquet
August 8-9 Work Project Anderson Mesa
Mid- October Work Project Unit 21

KOFA LAWSUIT SUCCESS

In a major victory for sportsmen and conservationists nationwide, a federal court has ruled in favor of US Fish and Wildlife, AZ Game & Fish, and the AZ Desert Bighorn Sheep Society (among others) to protect wildlife management on an important parcel of federal land. The ruling reiterates that wildlife management takes precedent over protectionism on the National Wildlife Refuges. The AAF contributed to the effort.

COMMISSIONER'S SPECIAL TAGS

Each year the AZ Game & Fish Commission issues 3 special pronghorn antelope tags to be used for fundraising purposes. The AAF was awarded 2 of the tags, and the Arizona Big Game Super Raffle the 3rd.

The first tag was auctioned at the Arizona Elk Society banquet in March and generated \$62,500. At our fundraising banquet in July, the 2nd tag brought \$67,500 at auction, tying the record for the highest amount ever! The 2008 Super Raffle resulted in another \$40,400 added to the tag fund account for antelope!

All of the funds generated by the auction and/or raffle of these tags goes directly to wildlife management. The AAF participates in the Habitat Partnership Committee to select projects and studies that will be funded with special tag monies.

ARIZONA BIG GAME SUPER RAFFLE

The 2009 sales campaign has already begun! This is your chance to win one of the coveted Commissioner's tags or a Swarovski optics package. Winners can hunt for 365 days almost anywhere in the state. New this year is a tag for Mountain Lion. Sales will continue through July 2009, and the drawing will take place July 18th, 2009. Visit the website for more information.

WWW.ARIZONABIGGAMESUPERRAFFLE.COM

FOREST PLAN REVISION INPUT

The latest update regarding the Apache-Sitgreaves National Forests' plan revision effort is available on the forests' Web site:

<http://www.fs.fed.us/r3/asnf/plan-revision/documents.shtml>

Desired conditions are the foundation of the revised plan and "paint a picture" of what the forests look like and provide. A first draft of desired conditions are available for your review and input. Please consider submitting your input on the draft desired conditions.

Apache-Sitgreaves National Forests
Plan Revision Team

E-mail: asnf.planning@fs.fed.us

Web: <http://www.fs.fed.us/r3/asnf/>

PREHISTORIC PRONGHORN EXHIBIT

The International Wildlife Museum in Tucson recently opened a special exhibit entitled "Prehistoric Pronghorn, Ancient Antelope". The exhibit features a full body reconstruction of a prehistoric pronghorn (antelope ancestors), a fossil species known only from Southern Arizona. It was discovered by 2 high school boys from New York in a cave near Sonoita in 1934. Pronghorn have been in North America for 20 million years and the modern pronghorn is sole surviving species of at least 50 species that have existed in the past.

The museum is located at 4800 W. Gates Pass Rd. in Tucson. For more information, call 520-629-0100 or visit their website

WWW.THEWILDLIFEMUSEUM.ORG

THANKS!

To Brad Remfrey for assisting with the publication of our *Pronghorn* magazine. Not only has Brad helped us upgrade to high quality color print, he has donated half of the printing costs over the last year and a half.

HAVE A QUESTION OR COMMENT?

"SHOOT BACK AT US" AT

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<i>WHAT?</i>	<i>WHEN?</i>	<i>WHERE?</i>
The Arizona Antelope Foundation	October 13 6:30 PM	The Phoenix Zoo
Board Meetings	November 10 6:30 PM	455 N. Galvin Parkway
	December 8 6:30 PM	
AAF Work Projects	October 18-19, 2008	Unit 21
	March 7-8, 2009	Ash Creek Ranch
	May 16-17, 2009	Yavapai Ranch
	August 8-9, 2009	Anderson Mesa
The Wildlife Conservation Council	October 28 6:30 PM	
Board Meetings	November 25 6:30 PM	
	January 27 6:30 PM	
AAF Clinic	June 16, 2009	Sportsman's Warehouse
AAF Banquet	July 18, 2009	TBA
AZ Big Game Super Raffle Drawing	July 18, 2009	TBA

SPORTSMAN'S CALENDAR OF UPCOMING EVENTS!