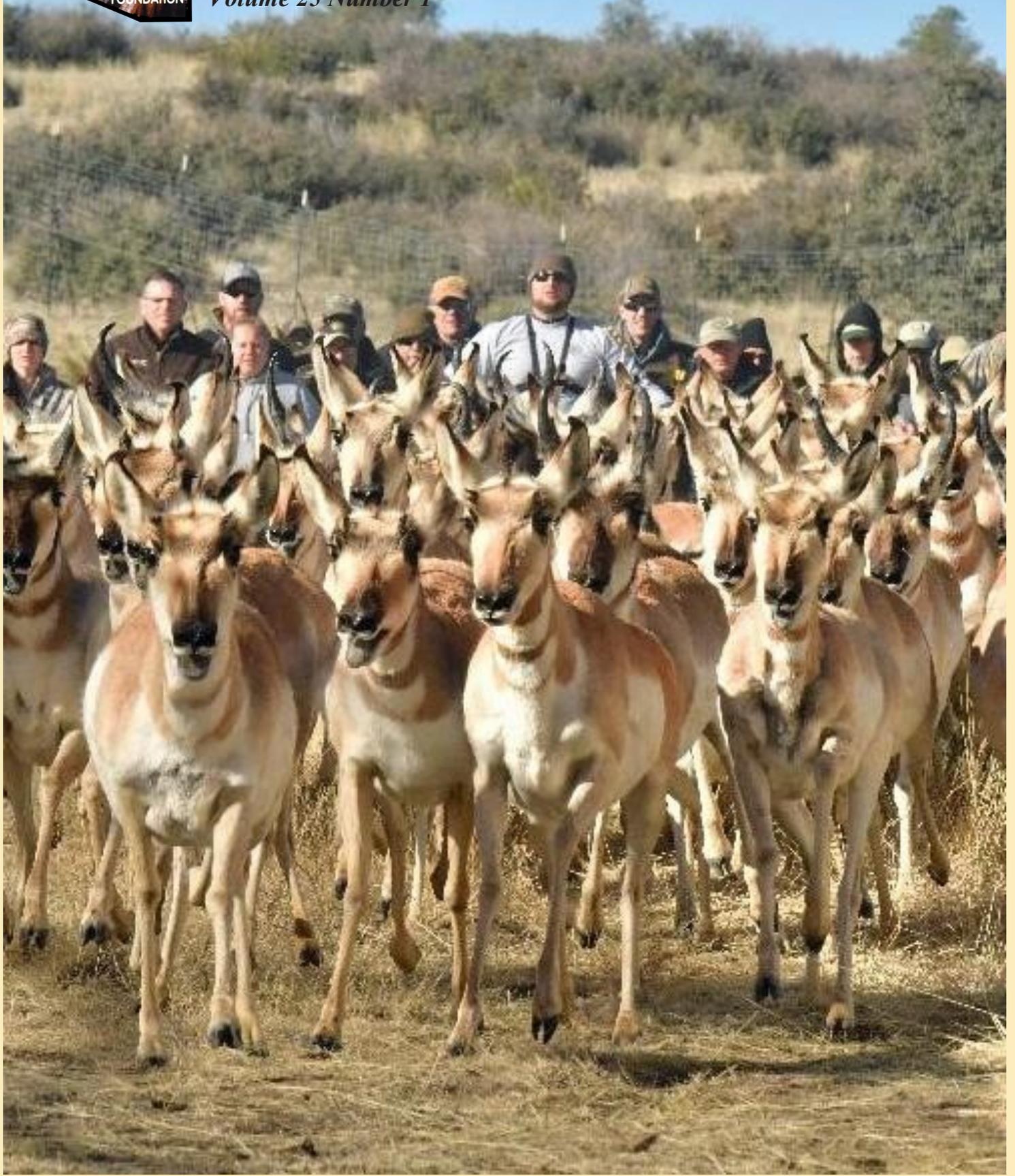


PRONGHORN

1st Quarter 2019
Volume 25 Number 1



ARIZONA ANTELOPE FOUNDATION, INC.

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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

THIS PHOTO IS BY GEORGE ANDREJKO OF AZGFD ON THE SUCCESSFUL GLASSFORD HILL PRONGHORN CAPTURE. THANK YOU FOR ALLOWING US TO USE IT TO ILLUSTRATE A STUNNING CONSERVATION MOMENT.

SEE PAGE 4 FOR THE STORY...

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:

Lenée Landis, Pronghorn Editor, PO Box 19420, Fountain Hills, AZ 85269 or by email at info@azantelope.org.

PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

. Welcome to our Spring Pronghorn and active project season for the Arizona Antelope Foundation. I would like to thank Brian George for his time as President and introduce myself. I am Ken Meadors, the incoming President. Unfortunately I grew up in a South side suburb of Chicago, but fortunately I was able to spend a lot of time in southern Wisconsin and northwest Arkansas with my relatives.

My introduction to Arizona came in the early 80's while working for Peabody Coal, finally moving here in 1986. My early involvement with conservation groups in Arizona came in the form of the Arizona Desert Big Horn Sheep Society (ABDSS.) The lucky thing was drawing and filling a desert sheep tag in 1996 (after only 6 years of applying.) The nice thing was becoming the 30th President for ADBSS in 1997.

Due to government shutdown, our January project in the Vekol Valley was completed the weekend of March 16th, article on page 8. Thanks to the usual hard work by our participants, we were able to accomplish more fence removal than planned. We look forward to working more with Michael Daehler, BLM biologist, and we enjoyed meeting area wildlife manager Travis Clarkson. Noah Ratliff (Game and Fish breeding pens) was also on hand. Keep an eye out for our flyers and come out to the up and coming projects through this fall.

Don't forget to mark your calendar for the fundraiser June 22nd at the Embassy Suites. We have a great raffle coming up so keep an eye out and get your ticket purchase in so as not to be left out. We have completed a major effort in Southern Arizona, connecting over 100,000 acres of habitat, we will now begin concentrating more in the North. We should also be getting a lot of old fence removed off the Sonoran Desert National Monument (Vekol Valley) hopefully helping to move some Sonoran Pronghorn around.

If you're around the Phoenix area, remember the board meeting is at 6:30pm at the Bass Pro Shop on the second Monday of each month. Come on by —we are always ready for input from our members. Remember, new blood brings new ideas. If you have never been involved with a board of directors before, see what it's like and maybe give it a shot.



As a final note I would like to thank everyone for their work with the Arizona Antelope Foundation as well as Arizona Game and Fish for all their support and effort towards our outdoors and the animals they manage on a daily basis.

If anyone has any thoughts or comments regarding this issue of the Pronghorn, please write or email us at info@azantelope.org

Sincerely,
Ken Meadors
President

***“LIBERTAS AD VAGOR”....
FREEDOM TO ROAM***

GLASSFORD HILL PRONGHORN CAPTURE SUCCESS!! & NEW SOUTHEASTERN ARIZONA BEGINNINGS JANUARY 22-23, 2019

BY GLEN DICKENS, VP/GRANTS/PROJECTS MGR.



Prescott
Valley Corral
Construction

On January 22-23rd 2019 Arizona Antelope Foundation (AAF) board members, 28 volunteers and 42 Arizona Game and Fish Department (AGFD) employees did a final corral trap set up to capture pronghorn from the heavily urbanized Glassford Hill area in Prescott Valley. These two trap building days followed the earlier November 14th, 2018 fence construction of the capture fence wings by 44 AGFD personnel and volunteers.

The purpose of this capture project was two-fold, the first to “Rescue” a sub-population of 75 pronghorn that had become surrounded by 360 degrees of subdivisions and major highways. The

herd had decreased in population from 100 animals a year earlier due largely to vehicle collisions to the surveyed 75 just prior to capture. The second purpose was to release the captured animals into five pronghorn sub-populations in Southeastern Arizona to bolster individual herd numbers and genetic diversity. Three of the releases were to be north, east and west of Willcox, one release in the San Bernardino Valley northeast of Douglas, and one release in the southern Altar Valley on the Buenos Aires Wildlife Refuge southwest of Tucson.

January 24th was a cold morning when volunteers and AGFD personnel all gathered at 7AM in the large parking lot located in the center of Prescott Valley to form carpools to travel out to near the capture site. After arriving, folks walked to the trap site and received their individual job assignments. Volunteers were divided into four teams, two of which were stationed in large ditches with fence construction materials to build a temporary woven fence in the alleyway after pronghorn had passed that location. The other two teams stationed on both sides of the capture alley behind the ditches hid in the nearby brush to become “drivers.”

Everyone hiding was breathless with anticipation when the chopper fired up and began gathering up the nearby herd of pronghorn. Each time the helicopter noise got nearer all of us thought “this is it”! Only to be disappointed when the chopper noise faded away. But finally on the 3rd or so pass everything clicked and 55 pronghorn headed into the wing trap and down the alley. On command we all exited and running quickly assumed our positions and the woven wire fence went up in less than a couple minutes with the drivers now facing the alley. It didn’t take long before the herd turned and repeatedly started back in the alley to escape only to be faced with a solid wall of humans waving their arms and walking slowly down the alley toward the trap. Eventually the alley trap doors were swung shut and the herd was driven into the capture/mugging pens. Success!!

After an hour “calming down period” what happened next was a several hour process of individually classifying, handling and ear tagging 45 animals; determining which ones were to receive radio collars and to which of the five release groups they would be assigned. As each animal finished the process, they were loaded into the various transport cages and trailers for their 350-mile ride south to their respective designated release zones.

PHOTO CREDITS: Capture photos courtesy of AZGFD Photographer George Andrejko, Release photos courtesy Betty Dickens.

Finally in the late afternoon vehicles started south to their respective release sites. The Buenos Aires release of four mature pregnant does, two equipped with radio collars, went off without a hitch later that evening. The Willcox pronghorn and crew overnighted in Benson and Willcox for releases the next morning at Bonita/Allen Flat and the Monk Ranch. That same morning three mature pregnant does and one buck, without collars were released in the center of the San Bernardino Valley by Douglas Wildlife Manager

Mike Richins. We were fortunate and got to be at two of the releases, the first at Allen Flat and the second at Monk Ranch hence the photos of two release teams. Yes, those are very big/relieved and happy smiles by all!



AZGFD
Pronghorn
Push

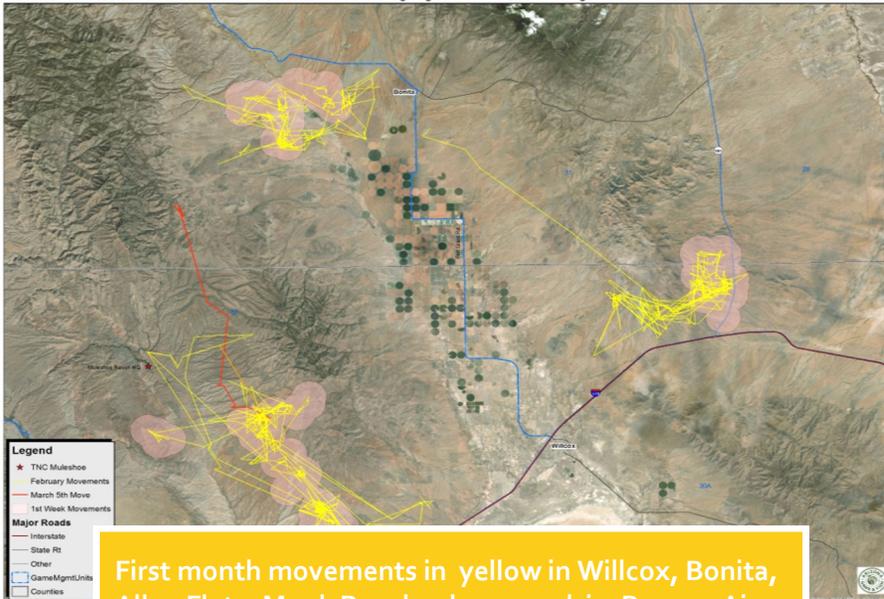
Each of the three Willcox area releases had 5 pronghorn that were radio-collared to provide seasonal habitat use information for 24 months post-release. The data to be uploaded at least 4 times daily and analyzed by a Geographic Information System (GIS)/Game Specialist periodically. The focus will be on learning where resident pronghorn are fawning, breeding, and the key zones they utilize seasonally for foraging. The first and last time pronghorn were reintroduced to this area from the Anderson Mesa herd was in 1944/45 when a total of 46 pronghorn were released.

Post-release mortalities and monitoring showed one mature doe died in transport and one collared doe and one collared buck at the Bonita release site died most likely of capture myopathy within 72 hours after being released. This percentage of transplant mortality is well within acceptable biological limits. The really good news is that all the other pronghorn released with collared animals have been observed upright/healthy and mixed in with groups of resident pronghorn.



Capture Team

1st Month & Long-range Movements of Collared Pronghorn in 31/32



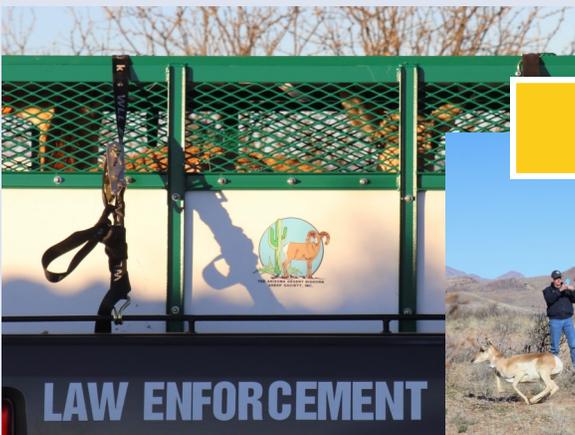
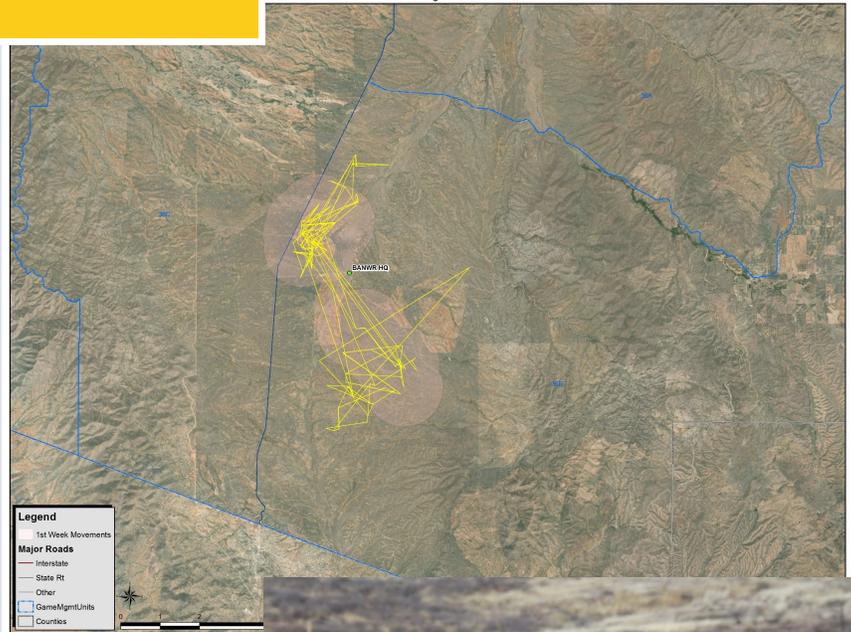
First month movements in yellow in Willcox, Bonita, Allen Flats, Monk Ranch, above, and in Buenos Aires Refuge and Altar Valley SW of Tucson, below right

As is demonstrated in these maps, they are all very busy exploring the boundaries of what we consider the available pronghorn habitat and in some cases beyond. In an extreme case as this was going to press on April 2nd a mature buck released in the Allen Flat area northwest of Willcox started a 70-mile “walk about” on St Patrick’s day and is now located on the north side of the Gila River northeast of Safford, enroute to the Eagle Creek area? He is certainly puzzling a number of us wildlife biologists. Coincidentally at the time of capture he was growing only a single horn; hence this vagabond has now earned the nickname “One Horn”. Stay tuned for our next

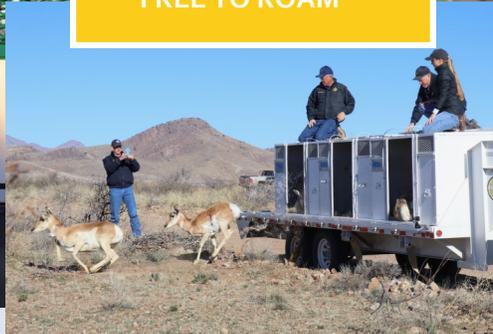
issue and we will update you on One Horn’s status.

All volunteer work hours and mileage contributed have been used as in-kind financial match for our 8-year Southeastern Arizona Pronghorn Enhancement project funded by the National Fish and Wildlife Foundation and the Arizona Game and Fish Habitat Partnership program under the grant entitled “Southern Arizona Grasslands Pronghorn Initiative.”

Movement of Collared Pronghorn in 36B over 1st Month



FREE TO ROAM



This successful capture and the attendant releases have been planned for many years as part of the grants population augmentation objectives. These releases represent a major capstone supplementing these existing pronghorn subpopulations in areas we have spent 10 years; improving waters, removing mesquites, and removing, replacing, or modifying over 30 miles of fence.

AZGFD/AAF Monk Ranch Release Team



Jim McCasland on Pronghorn conservation duty—what Lifetime Commitment looks like!

The AGFD is to be commended for this capture in particular because of the urban human and social dynamics associated with its location. The Kingman Regional office and field staff did a superb job of informing and explaining to local residents the need to both remove most of the pronghorn and their usefulness to bolstering southeastern Arizona's herds. The Arizona Antelope Foundation is to be commended as well, but in particular we thank AAF Charter Member and Past President Jim McCasland who worked tirelessly bringing this herds perilous condition to the forefront. Thank you, Jim!

To get a *you are there* feeling of this superb operation, watch AGFD's 2+ minutes video at <https://youtu.be/ZODjpAZhgxQ>

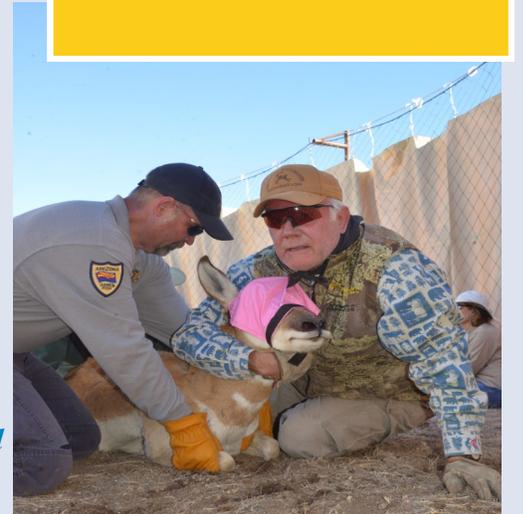
Thanks go out to several groups of folks and individuals that contributed to this successful project:

-Representing the AAF; Jim McCasland, Al Sue, Joe-Bill Pickrell, Gary Boyer, Dave Laird, Glen & Betty Dickens, Earl Polvent, Sue Moeller and Steve Tritz

-Representing the AGFD; Erin Butler, Larry Phoenix, Amber Munig, Josh Avey, Velma Holt, Mike Richens, Micah White, Dennis Fogle, Virginia Goldsbury, Kimberly Huber, Haley Plunkett, Jered Ellison, Danielle Kimas, Dave Cagle, Dustin Daveau, Karen Kilma, Rana Tucker, Anne Justice-Allen, Len Wood, Brandon Folex, Rick Langley, Ben McClure, Jeremy Smith, Will Lemon, George Andrejko, Justin Espino, Jennifer Cordova, Heather Heimann, Dave Majure, John O'Dell, Cody Johnston, April Howard, John Bacorn, Devin Skinner, Duane Aubuchon, Jake Fouser, Dale Hajek, Gina Corwin, Elliott Bundgaard, Tom Bagley, Darren Tucker, and AJ Lander

-Representing the Arizona Wildlife Federation; Scott Garlid and Kevin Consoer

-Other AAF members and volunteers; Colette Avey, David Pence, Wes Siegert, Kristin Falcone, Joshua Good, Michael Brucker, Craig Levey, Nick Thompson, Kalyn Miller, Bill Henak, Brian Dietz, Meghan Miller, Jesse Baker, Dan Dahren, Brandon Cawley and Karen Hajek.



AZGFD/AAF Allen-Flat Release Team

VEKOL VALLEY—BUREAU OF LAND MANAGEMENT FENCE REMOVAL PROJECT FOR SONORAN PRONGHORN MARCH 16, 2019

BY GLEN DICKENS, VP/GRANTS/PROJECTS MGR.

On Saturday March 16th, 2019 we held our first of many future planned fence removal projects in the Vekol Valley approximately 30 miles southwest of Casa Grande. This is in cooperation with the Phoenix District Office of the Bureau of Land Management and their efforts to make this zone more pronghorn friendly for a planned Sonoran Pronghorn supplemental release. The Sonoran Pronghorn subspecies is *not hunted*, is currently federally listed as *Endangered*, and its restoration is being co-managed by the US Fish and Wildlife Service and the Arizona



Game and Fish Department. Note the quarterly updates included in each issue of the Pronghorn.

This was only the second “winter project” we have held, the first being the Ajo water-hole fence construction project in January of 2018. Going forward in addition to our usual four fence projects held in April, June, August and September,

this is intended to be our 5th project each winter, weather and government shutdowns notwithstanding. For this project we had 30 volunteers, who enjoyed bluebird daytime winter temps and evenings cool enough to enjoy gathering around the fire.

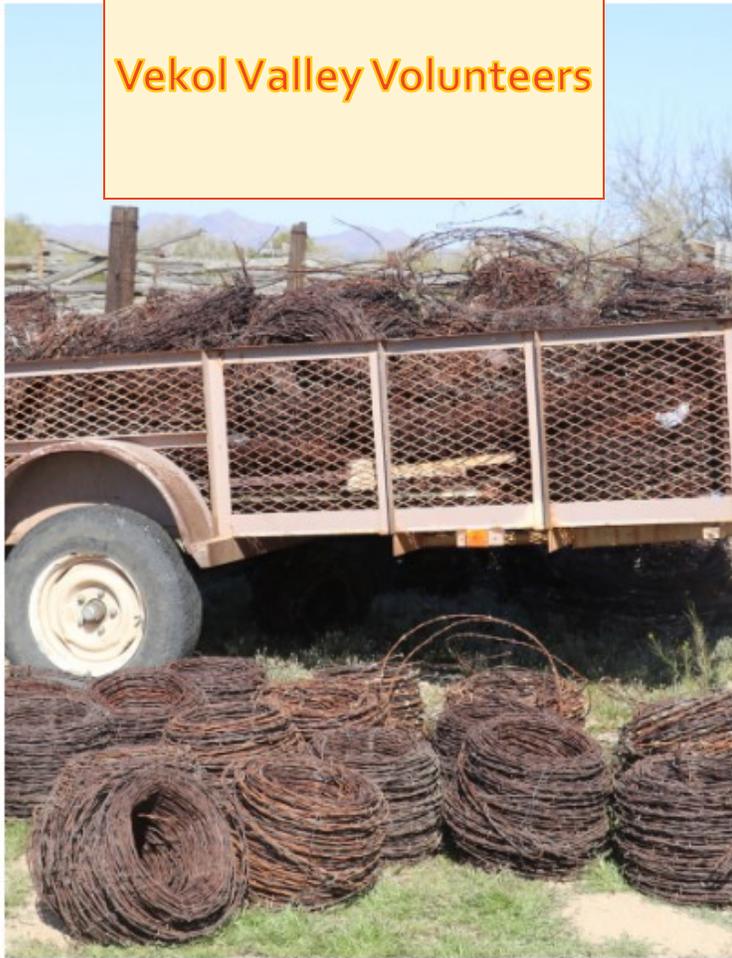
For this first project we removed four miles of existing fence and a wire corral three miles west of the Vekol Valley road and three miles south of Interstate 8. All wire was rolled and removed and, to the degree possible, old wooden fence posts were removed as well. For the Friday afternoon project, early arrivals helped brush out the road from camp to the work site and then, having time on their hands, they removed an entire wire corral and metal fence posts.

As stated, this effort is in direct support of the Endangered Pronghorn re-establishment efforts. These projects will help ensure that future pronghorn and resident mule deer can safely utilize open desert and grassland corridors without interference due to fence line obstructions. After this project, this zone now has 50 miles of total fence to be removed. It’s our goal to take out the highest priority 20 miles over the next several project years.





Vekol Valley Volunteers



Dinners were served on Friday and Saturday nights with the sides provided by Chefs Mary and Bill Keebler and they hosted Saturday and Sunday morning breakfasts as well. Thanks Mary and Bill!

Thanks go out to several groups of folks that contributed to this successful project:

- Representing the AAF Board: Ken Meadors, Dave Cagle, Al Sue, Connie Taylor, Gary Boyer, Joe-Bill Pickrell and yours truly.
- BLM: Mike Daehler
- US Air Force: Jesup Helget
- Becoming an Outdoor Woman/AWF: Linda Dightmon
- Game & Fish personnel: Troy Christensen, Travis Clarkson, and Noah Ratcliff
- Other AAF members and volunteers: Betty Dickens, Mary and Bill Keebler, Jamie and Deana Watkins, Dave Laird, Johnny Johnson, Darrel Wood, Kathy Cook, Al Kreutz, David Breeden, Richard Roller, Keith Callaway, Sherry Christensen, Oscar Oland, Stanley Crisher, Andy Little, Dennis Pikul and Mark Hullinger

Thanks, everyone for your efforts!

Photo Credit: Betty Dickens



Bye Bye Barbed Wire

Vekol Valley Fence Removal—*A first-timer's perspective*



Barbed wire fencing and I do not get along. It tears up my gear, scratches my skin and just gets in the way. I am too old to jump over it so my options are to walk for miles searching for a gate or finding a spot to skinny under. I usually choose the latter and have had many embarrassing moments in the process. Barbed wire mocks me!

So when Mark Hullinger suggested we join the Arizona Antelope Foundation on a fence removal project, I was more than ready. The only equipment needed were some good work gloves. I bought a brand-new pair for the occasion. To make it even more exciting, we were to remove fence line in future Sonoran Pronghorn habitat.

We arrived at the campsite Friday afternoon and received a warm greeting from Bill Keebler. Woo Hoo! Mary and Bill are cooking for us! This just keeps getting better and better. We set up our little camper and prepared to go with the other early arrivals to "brush out the road". Huh? Not a clue what that meant. I am looking for brushes to brush the road, I don't know. Turns out that we were to clip vegetation that has grown out over the two-track so that vehicles could get to the worksite without adding 'Arizona Pinstriping'. Ohhhh...got it!

Well, that took about a half an hour. Soooo, we proceeded to take down some barbed wire. The worksite began at an old corral and those cowboys had wire crisscrossed in every

direction. Someone handed me some bolt cutters and it was on! I cannot tell you the personal satisfaction of snipping that nasty rusty wire. Ha! 'snip' that is for the ruined (new) upland pants in 2017. And this 'snip' is for the gash in my arm last elk season. This 'snip' is for the mud I had to clean out from my binoculars. Wow! This was getting personal! What fun!

There were about 10 people in the early group and we had the wire from the corral area pulled and rolled by hand in a couple of hours. From here the project was to remove a mile of fence line to the north and about a mile and a half to the west. We were ready to continue but the adult supervision made us stop because the more people and wire rollers would be here in the morning making the process more efficient.

Mark and I used the rest of the afternoon exploring the ruins of the Vekol Ranch house and just enjoying the awesome wildflowers of this spring. Globe mallow and bladderpod were abundant as well as brittlebush and an occasional poppy. This desert rat may be a little prejudiced but there is nothing more beautiful than the desert in bloom. The spring of 2019 has been an exceptional wildflower year for Arizona. One of the best things about joining a group of volunteers on a campout is well...the campout. Fireside is a wonderful way to meet good folks and a great place to get hunting tips. Friday evening we all pulled up chairs around a roaring campfire and enjoyed appetizer's deluxe and later, pulled pork from the Keebler Kitchen. Most of the volunteers were retirees but we had a handful of young people and a mother/daughter team. All together there were about 30 people at this work project. We turned in early as tomorrow was the big day. I was giddy with the anticipation of snipping more fence line. I know...it's a sickness!

Saturday morning we were treated to a delicious breakfast. It was booked as a 'continental breakfast' but it was so much more. There was fresh fruit and muffins, cereal and oatmeal, bagels and cream cheese. After breakfast, we all piled into our vehicles and headed back to the worksite.

It is amazing how much 30 like-minded people can accomplish. Half of us went to the north and half to the west. The work was easy even as a first-time volunteer. I just followed the lead of the veterans. We would snip the wire from the posts and place two on each side. The posts were made of wood so they were left standing, the bones of a structure not needed any more. Sometimes we had to weave them out of creosote bushes and the like. I had an interesting wrestling match with a Palo Verde. Folks behind us had wire rollers mounted on ATV's so they rolled it up. There was another ATV that would bring the finished wire rolls back to the trailer. We had finished the two and a half miles by lunchtime.

That afternoon we tackled the fence to the south. It was not on the worklist but this was a fence eating group! This fence line never had a chance. Now, we had the entire crew on one line. It was hard to walk fast enough to get to a post to cut the wire. Yup, I was still stoked with the snipping part. There was lots of Atta boys and girls. The camaraderie just got better as we worked. It was fun to be a part of something so much larger than yourself. It was all over for that stretch of fence in about 2 hours.

That evening, we enjoyed another delicious dinner. This time it was tri tip steak with all the fixings. The food this entire weekend was superb. I have to say that the AAF knows how to take care of their volunteers. Another big campfire complete with tall tales of the glory days. We also heard from the agency folks. We met the new Wildlife Manager Travis Clarkson of the Yuma Region and some of the local BLM people. It was nice to see them working with us and camping out too. It sort of validates all the hard work, at least for me. I went to sleep that night tired and sore but proud of my accomplishment. I dream of seeing Sonoran pronghorn on this range.

Four miles of fence line down! But there is 50 more miles of rusty barbed wire that needs to go. There will be another winter project date in 2020. I plan on being there. How about you? All you need is a sturdy pair of work gloves and camping gear, the rest is supplied by the Arizona Antelope Foundation.

*by Linda Dightmon
Photo by Betty Dickens
Barbed wire cc by-sa3.0*



SONORAN PRONGHORN UPDATE



BY JILL BRIGHT AZ GAME & FISH
JANUARY 2019

Captive Breeding

Cabeza Pen

The pronghorn are being observed on a regular basis during scoping and appear to be doing well. A buck with an injured front leg from a previous capture is observed less frequently and is always by himself when observed or on camera. He has not been seen with the herd in a number of months, and we believe he may be getting harassed by other bucks. The technicians will continue to monitor his body condition. Since he is not using his front leg photos show his hoof is growing quite long. Males from both herds have been sparring quite a bit in the second half of the month. Because we did not catch most of the animals targeted for release in the south half of the pen in December, we attempted to re-capture them for several days in January. While a few would venture into the bomas, we could not get enough targets to do another release. We quit trying in mid-January due to the late stages of pregnancy; we do not want to handle or drug the females at this time. On January 22, a coyote was first detected inside the pen. Attempts at calling him, and trapping have so far been unsuccessful. He appears on the drinker cameras every 1-2 nights. He is always photographed at night or very early morning with no photos of him being taken in the daylight hours. We are continuing to try to remove him from the pen.

NORTH HALF		SOUTH HALF	
Adult Females	10	Adult Females	18
Yearling Females (<i>b</i> 2018)	6	Yearling Females (<i>b</i> 2018)	5
Adult Males	5	Adult Males	6
Yearling Males (<i>b</i> 2018)	8	Yearling Males (<i>b</i> 2018)	5
Fawns (<i>b</i> 2019)		Fawns (<i>b</i> 2019)	
Total	29	Total	34
Total Pen	63		

There was 0.63 inches of rain at the pen in January, and the pen forage remains in good condition. Consequently no irrigation took place in January. The pen technicians have been busy with other tasks including deconstructing the bomas and emergency pens, checking predator cameras on a daily basis, continuing to work on adding more strands of barb wire above the game fence to deter predators, making adjustments to electric fence and replacing broken insulators, walking the pen perimeter to investigate how the coyote entered the pen, and sealing up holes in midline fence. In addition to daily pen duties, the technicians have been visiting release sites for camera card collection and to assess the need for supplemental feeding, assisted in the Halliwell water project, and spent time checking on the pronghorn in the YPG holding pen.

Kofa Pen

Trapping attempts for the Kofa capture and release started on January 4. We were successful the first day, and caught all the target animals. However, when the pen technician arrived on January 6, a small side gate on one of the bomas was open, and all the pronghorn had escaped. Attempts were made to re-capture the herd for the next week, but were unsuccessful. Consequently, no animals were released from the Kofa pen this year. The pen remains green with good forage conditions, and all the pronghorn appear healthy.

One of the females moved from the Cabeza pen to the YPG holding pen suffered a broken leg that was detected after her release into the holding pen. On January 14, she was darted and moved by trailer to the Kofa pen rather than being released to the wild. She made the trip successfully and appears to be healing, gaining strength and mobility, and doing well in the pen.

Wild Pronghorn Cabeza/ORPI/BMGR Herd: Due to the attempts at both pens to capture pronghorn, monitoring the animals in the YPG holding pen, other projects and logistics, there were no aerial telemetry flights in January.

Adult Females	17
Yearling Females (b 2018)	5
Adult Males	7
Yearling Males (b 2018)	2
Fawns (b 2019)	
Total	31

Wild Pronghorn Kofa Herd: The 18 pronghorn in the YPG holding pen were scheduled to be released January 17. On January 16, an overnight rain ran a large wash in the pen and washed out some of the fence. Four pronghorn escaped. The rest of the pronghorn left the pen on January 17 after some of the fence was removed. Fifteen of these pronghorn have GPS collars and can be tracked twice a day. The first 4 pronghorn that escaped initially went southeast from the holding pen. Three pronghorn immediately went south from the pen and eventually moved into the southern King Valley on YPG. The rest moved east. One buck has moved 44 miles east towards Palo Verde (Figure 1).

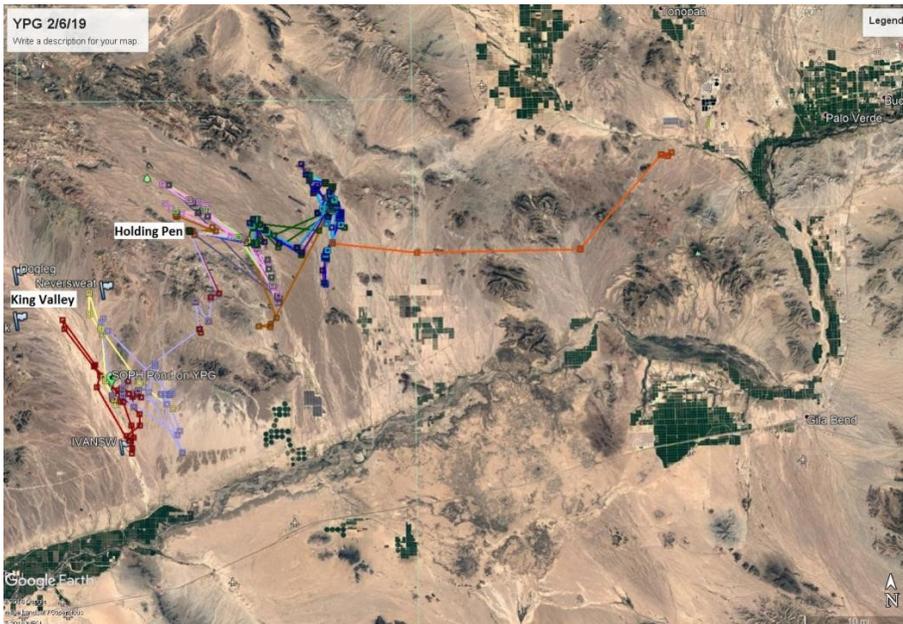


Figure 1. GPS collared pronghorn released from the holding pen on YPG (January 17 - February 6, 2019).

An aerial telemetry flight occurred on January 25 and all animals were located and are alive. There are now 8 pronghorn west of King Valley near Highway 95. The others are mostly in King Valley. Most of the pronghorn that had been in the vicinity of the pen moved away, although 4 bucks have recently returned.

Wild Pronghorn BMGR East of Highway 85 Herd: No flights.

Water Projects: The Halliwell water development on BMGR was enlarged January 18-20. Its size was doubled to over 20,000 gallons, which should greatly reduce or eliminate water hauling. We are still working on the water rights and other documentation for 2 new waters in the Saucedo herd area.

Forage Enhancements: The forage enhancements received good amounts of rain and have good green forage; irrigation has been discontinued for now. Technicians continue to monitor pronghorn use, which has dropped off at all the sites.

Written February 6, 2019

TALES FROM THE AUCTION
PRONGHORN AND THE WINE COUNTRY: A GREAT COMBINATION
MARSHA PETRIE SUE AND AL SUE



We were lucky enough to make the winning bid at the Antelope Foundation FundRaiser for the *Sonoita Wine Country Adventure*. Wine, dine and unwind was the motto for our visit. Thanks to Glen and Betty Dickens for donating this great package.



We arrived at the *La Hacienda de Sonoita* and were welcomed by the B&B owners, Tom and Cheryl. We stayed in the beautifully decorated Cowboy style

'Ranch Room.' Directly outside our door was the beautiful patio, the perfect spot for an adult beverage at the end of the day.

Sonoita is where history's paintbrush has touched this dramatic canvas. Indians, Conquistadors, missionaries, ranchers, cavalry, Buffalo Soldiers, miners, railroaders, Wyatt Earp, the Clantons, and hardy pioneers have all left their mark. This is now the home of new pioneer wine makers!

We visited several wineries, imbibed great wine, met some great people, and of course, brought home a couple cases of wine so the memory of this wonderful trip could live on.

Our auction package also included a gift certificate to the Steak Out. The food was wonderful, the environment casual and the music provided by Joel was good old Country and Western. A very fun evening.



A few other unplanned side trips were very interesting; Patagonia, Tubac and Nogales. The Nogales-Mariposa Arizona Port of Entry was built in 1973 to divert truck traffic away from the busy downtown Grand Avenue border crossing. It connects Arizona State Route 189 directly with Mexican Federal Highway 15. The border wall is shown below center.



And of course, the Pronghorn were out grazing. We saw at least 50 off the Upper Elgin Road and also across Highway 83 in the burn area. How wonderful to see the AAF work projects fulfilling the goal of migration and herd growth. The hard work of the many volunteers who participated in these AAF projects continues to help the health of this beautiful species.

Last year, a successful AAF project was completed by 39 volunteers and Arizona Game and Fish Department (AZGFD) personnel in southeastern Arizona. A quarter mile section of fence modified and repaired what is an entrance into a newly identified 320 acre “Fawning Pasture” as well as modified a 500-foot section of fence on the south end of the Upper Elgin Road allowing access to a 2,400-acre pasture. The bottom strand of barbed wire was removed and replaced with a single strand of smooth wire at a height of 18 inches and replaced all fence stays and posts as needed. Within 2 weeks after the fence modification 17 pronghorn were observed in the 2,400-acre pasture and in early 2018 summer a fawn and mother were observed in this accessible pasture.

In addition, approximately .75 miles of 2 fences were modified improving pronghorn access to another 3,000 acres of habitat. These projects and others have increased the herd in this area (now 120 animals minimum, up from 17 in 2012) utilizing and pioneering suitable habitat areas previously unoccupied by Pronghorn. Pronghorn and the Wine Country is indeed a great pairing. We are looking forward to the next Fund Raiser and hopefully will be the winning bid on another wonderful adventure. Be sure to join us June 22, 2019 -you can register online at www.azantelope.org.



SAVE THE DATE! JUNE 22nd 2019

We are excited to be planning our Recognition banquet. Some awesome donations— you will absolutely love—have already been procured!! And more are being worked on.... This year you will see some of your favorites, along with some new and different items.

The evening will be full of excitement and great raffles. Plus, we will cover some of the amazing progress our volunteers and supporters have accomplished over the year which, if I say so myself, is quite impressive!

We will be offering a sponsor table that will include some special goodies including a Henry Golden boy, engraved with your name and our petroglyph logo.

If you or anyone you know has harvested a Pronghorn in Arizona last season, please let them know we want them here! If their mount is complete we would love to show it off too! Successful hunters will be recognized and receive a beautiful plaque

and be pictured in the next Pronghorn Magazine. Scoring will also be available during the day, so bring those horns in!

Draw a tag for this season? Then you won't want to miss our hunter clinic! This is a must attend event for any pronghorn tag holder! We will have some experts going over tactics covering glassing, stalking, rifle, archery, optics, you name it. ***Wildlife managers from Game and Fish will be on hand to answer questions about specific units.*** Field care, taxidermy and photography will also be covered!

Check out specifics on page 19. To stay up to date, follow us at [Facebook.com/azantelope](https://www.facebook.com/azantelope) or email us at info@azantelope.org.

Come celebrate with us! We look forward to seeing you!

27th Annual Hunter Clinic—Trophy Scoring— Recognition and Fundraising Banquet!!

HABITAT PARTNERSHIP COMMITTEE MEETING RESULTS FOR 2018

BY GLEN DICKENS, VP/GRANTS/ PROJECTS MANAGER

FUNDING SOURCES:

The program's primary funding source is Special Big Game License-Tag funds. The HPC strives to incorporate multiple funding sources and partners with matching funds and labor to bring the maximum benefit to wildlife on each approved project. The Arizona Game and Fish Commission annually awards three special big game license-tags per big game species (pronghorn being one) to nonprofit wildlife conservation organizations (Antelope Foundation receives two) that auction or raffle these tags to raise funding that is used to benefit the wildlife species for which the license-tag is issued. The sponsoring wildlife conservation organizations must cover all marketing and administrative costs for the license tag sales, and 100% of the money raised is returned to the state of Arizona Game and Fish Department (AGFD).

RESULTS:

These funds are allocated through the HPC Program by collaboration between the AGFD and Arizona's wildlife conservation organizations that market and sell the tags at the annual January HPC meeting. The applications considered are those developed during calendar 2018 by 13 different regional Habitat Partnership Working Groups covering all of Arizona. We reviewed them at an all-day meeting held on January 5, 2019 with the Arizona Antelope Foundation (represented by our new President Ken Meadors and I), AZ Mule Deer Foundation, AZ Deer Association, Mule Deer Foundation, AZ Elk Society, Rocky Mt. Elk Foundation, AZ Desert Bighorn Sheep Society and the Wild Turkey Federation. Each project proposal was put up one by one and received a vote for funding or not and a pledged amount from each of the species groups. In many, many cases there is strong overlap benefitting antelope/mule deer and elk and the projects receive funding from all three species tag accounts.

This "leveraged multi-big game species approach" this past January resulted in 16 pronghorn projects receiving funding utilizing \$179.70K of antelope tag funds as well as \$394K from elk, \$163.7K from mule deer and white-tail and \$4.5K from javelina. Grand total \$741.9K benefitting antelope as well as elk/mule deer/ whitetail and javelina! All funds allocated this past January totaled over \$2.3 million all benefitting Arizona's big game species.

A sampler of some of the projects titles to give you a sense of the types of projects funded include:

- ◆ Jolly Well Solar upgrade-Water Security Unit 35A
- ◆ Back Pasture Well Solar Upgrade-Water Security Unit 30A
- ◆ Aerial Coyote Removal Phase 1 Unit 30A
- ◆ Santa Margarita Ranch S. Lagunita Mesquite R. Unit 36C
- ◆ Water Hauling Unit 9
- ◆ Dirt Tank Cleanouts Unit 4A
- ◆ N AZ Habitat Initiative Units 6/A-B/7,8,9,10,18A
- ◆ 2 Water Catchment Redevelopments Unit 9
- ◆ Grassland Restoration Washtub Priority Area Unit 8
- ◆ Boquillas Ranch Water Projects Unit 10
- ◆ North/South of I-40 Pronghorn Connectivity Initiative Units 7/8

This process and partnership between our states big-game species groups and the Arizona Game and Fish Department is emblematic of one of the western states most effective big game conservation partnership programs.



**House Member Kim Dunn, Public Lands Day Bill sponsor,
joins Camo at the Capitol event.**

Arizona Hosts Its First “Camo-at-the-Capitol” Event

On Tuesday February 26th, 2019 from noon to 3:30pm, Arizona sportsmen and women gathered on the lawn of the Arizona Senate Building to celebrate our first annual Camo-at-the-Capitol event. Sponsored by the Arizona Wildlife Federation, the long-term goal of the event is to assure state laws and policies benefit Arizona’s wild-life and our state’s sporting heritage of hunting and fishing activities.

Events included:

- ◆ Wild game tasting
- ◆ Fly-casting demonstrations and games
- ◆ How-to-guides and discussions about how to be an effective wildlife and sportsman’s heritage advocate
- ◆ Sportsman groups with information tables/booths on the lawn
- ◆ Arizona Game and Fish Department legislative update
- ◆ Current issues briefing and legislator perspectives
- ◆ Legislator visits to Sportsman groups’ set-ups and informal chats
- ◆ Press visits with Sportsman groups and individuals on lawn



Booths were staffed by multiple volunteers from various sporting and species groups including the Arizona Antelope Foundation table with President, Ken Meadors and Board member, Terry Schupp. Other tables included members of the Yuma Rod and Gun Club, Arizona Elk Foundation, Arizona Mule Deer Foundation, Mesa Varmint Callers, Back Country Hunters and Anglers, Trout Unlimited, Becoming an Outdoors-Woman, and the Arizona Wildlife Federation. Thanks to each and every one of you for giving of your group’s time and energy!

The AWF will be expanding next year’s activities to include advocacy training and meetings with state law-makers aimed at cultivating a strong conservation voice for Arizona’s hunters and anglers emphasizing the positive economic impact those activities bring to both rural and urban Arizona communities.

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Steven Holt, Gila Bend

Dee Phan, Glendale
Darrell Tersey, Tucson

Mark Thorson, Scottsdale
David Vadnais, Oak View CA

Arizona Antelope Foundation

27th Annual Recognition Banquet Fundraiser and Hunter Clinic

June 22nd 2019
Clinic 12:00pm - 4:00 pm
Banquet 5:00pm - 9:00pm
Embassy Suites
4400 S. Rural Rd
Tempe Az



GREETINGS!



We welcome incoming President Ken Meadors. It has been a very busy 1st Quarter as you can see! The next quarter is also packed with activity and you are invited:

June 8th Fence Project Big Lake/Greer
June 22nd Annual Pronghorn Hunter Clinic-Embassy Suites Tempe
June 22nd Annual Pronghorn Recognition & Fundraising Banquet
August 10th Fence Project Williams
September 28th Fence Project Willcox

Thank you for your support of the Arizona Antelope Foundation. Best to you, Lenée



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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. Your commitment will not only ensure that you will continue to be able to enjoy one of Arizona's most magnificent animals, it will also ensure that your children and your children's children will have the opportunity to be able to enjoy pronghorn.

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

----- ✂ -----

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----- ✂ -----

Regular Membership.....\$ 40.00 Per Yr.

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