

# PRONGHORN

*2nd Quarter 2020*  
*Volume 26 Number 2*



# ARIZONA ANTELOPE FOUNDATION, INC.

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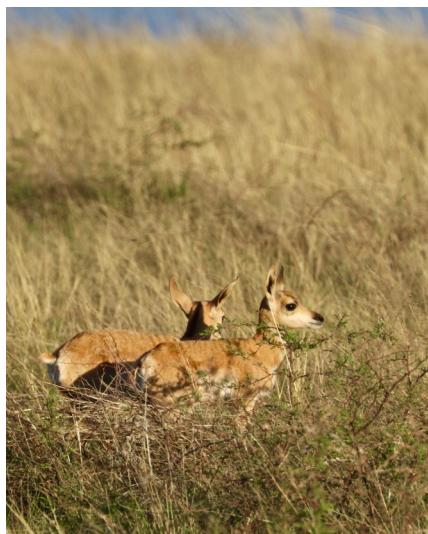
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### AAF Mission Statement:

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

### *New Beginnings!*

On May 16, 2020, photographer Betty Dickens caught these twin fawns, born on the Sonoita Plains, looking to their future which is brighter than it might have been based on the amount of work done to make that happen.

*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

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Hello, I hope everyone had better luck in drawing tags wherever you might have put in than I did. Guess I'll be helping this year rather than hunting.

If you are one of the tag holders for this year's Antelope hunt I hope you were able to attend our online Clinic. Yes, since we had to opt out on our Fundraiser this year we decided to put the Clinic online through Zoom. The segments were prerecorded and our Board member Kara did a great job running things.

As you might remember from previous messages for the pronghorn we have completed our work down in Southeastern Arizona (**National Fish & Wildlife Foundation Grant "Southeastern Arizona Grasslands Pronghorn Initiative" 2010-19**). Our Grant administrator, VP, and project chairman Glen Dickens has finished his Grant report and you will be seeing part of it in the issue. This is great news for the Antelope Foundation. Big Thanks to Glen for all his hard work on administering the process.

Well now, from the good news to the not so good news...As we mentioned before, we have moved our focus North and our folks out of the Kingman office have put together what we are referring to at this time as the 18A project. To remind everyone: the project is basically 5 years in length, we received \$2.8 million from the Department of Natural Resources, and the Mule Deer Foundation will be working with us on this one. Because of Covid 19, however, our project season for the summer has been canceled, which axed the initial projects for 18A.

We have our two Special tags again and are hoping for another good Auction season. With the current lack of activity this is about all I have for now. Just a reminder, kids are never too young for a start in the outdoors and conservation:

- ♦ bring them on a project or a survey;
- ♦ let them glass up critters and teach them the difference in tracks.
- ♦ If you're hunting maybe discuss why we have limits on tags and also how many critters we can take (it all adds up).



Though we have a rather empty project schedule, I would like to thank all of the volunteers, too many to name. Having said that, we get everything done: running the kitchen, hauling smooth wire, managing a grant. We can't do it without you. If we don't have your email get it to us or check out the website, so you can keep up with our latest raffle. At this time we still have our Sonoran Pronghorn project in the Vekol Valley planned for this fall.

Thanks  
Ken

Ken Meadors  
President

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

**It took an army and 10 years  
but our  
*Southeastern Arizona Grasslands*  
*Pronghorn Initiative*  
finished with high marks  
on December 31<sup>st</sup> 2019!**

**By Glen Dickens, AAF/VP/Grants Manager**

After some 10 years we wrapped up our 8-year National Fish and Wildlife Foundation (NFWF) funded Southeastern Arizona Grasslands Initiative on December 31<sup>st</sup> 2019. The final grant report and financial match audit were completed and submitted to the NFWF on May 29<sup>th</sup>, 2020 and accepted in full for final payment on June 24<sup>th</sup>. In the aggregate we spent a combined \$1.741M of grant, habitat partnership, rancher, and volunteer match funds over the formal 8-year project life. The grant report, including photos and GIS maps, was some 90 plus pages in length.

We made a decision to issue the final grant report as a special grant edition of the *Pronghorn* and as this quarterly issue is going to press, we are putting the final touches on that report. We will be printing excerpts from that report highlighting the work accomplished in each of the 6 herd zones over the next 4-quarterly issues of the *Pronghorn*. What follows here is an excerpt from both the grant introduction as well as the “Lessons Learned” and our “Glossary” from the final grant report. Much more to come!

**NFWF GRANT INTRODUCTION  
2010-2019**

*“Nothing worthwhile was ever accomplished without the will to start, the enthusiasm to continue and, regardless of temporary obstacles, the persistence to complete.”*

This statement by the late Waite Phillips encapsulates perfectly what you will read in the following pages of the National Fish and Wildlife Foundation (NFWF) final grant report: “*Southeastern Arizona Grasslands Pronghorn Initiative*”. The initiative finds half of its genesis at two Arizona Antelope Foundation (AAF) 5-year strategic planning meetings held in March and July 2010. At those meetings, one of five agreed upon strategies was to: create, fund, and staff a Southeastern Arizona Grasslands Pronghorn Initiative utilizing multi-funding sources. A year earlier, in February 2009, the Tucson Regional Office of the Arizona Game and Fish Department (AGFD) initiated an ad-hoc working group to develop a collaborative regional grasslands conservation and restoration strategy for southeast Arizona. The working group emphasized pronghorn as a focal species, while recognizing the strong potential for a multispecies approach. The group identified itself as the Southeast Arizona Collaborative Grassland Workgroup, which came to be known as the SEAGRASS working group.

Through multiple meetings in 2009 and early 2010, SEAGRASS brought all the interested parties to consensus on March 11, 2010 resulting in a final, group-approved southeastern Arizona pronghorn strategy. It was agreed that the primary goal was to: ***Increase Pronghorn population numbers, distribution, and connectiveness.*** To accomplish that goal, the strategy included the following six actions:

- 1) **Maintain and improve water distribution of water sources available year-round for pronghorn.**
- 2) **Protect and improve habitat conditions, fawning cover, and available forage for pronghorn.**
- 3) **Maintain and improve pronghorn travel corridor connectivity through cooperation with land management agencies and private or other landowners.**
- 4) **Actively treat and maintain grasslands that have experienced tree and shrub encroachment.**
- 5) **Monitor and increase pronghorn population abundance, distribution, and demographics.**
- 6) **Increase collaborative relationships and opportunities to increase pronghorn population abundance, distribution, and demographics.**

The 5 page Pronghorn Strategy was then submitted on the same date to the National Fish and Wildlife Foundation for inclusion into their evolving 6 species “Sky Islands Grassland Business Plan” which was to include pronghorn as a species of special interest and recovery, and eligible for grant funding. The above six actions were incorporated into our multiple NFWF grant funding requests whose chronology follows:

- 1) 3/30/2010 - Submitted our 1st NFWF Sky Island pre-proposal (not asked for a full proposal).
- 2) 10/13/2010 - Submitted our 2nd NFWF Sky Island pre-proposal (not asked for a full proposal).
- 3) 3/28/2011 - Submitted our 3rd NFWF Sky Island pre-proposal (asked for a full proposal).
- 4) 5/31/2011 - Submitted our 1st full proposal for \$775K for 3 years (not approved for funding.)
- 5) 11/2/2011 - Submitted our 2nd full proposal for \$230K for 3 years (accepted for funding.)
- 6) 2/3/2012 - Final grant documents/contracts signed and work begins in earnest (grant covered years 2012 to 2014).
- 7) 1/3/2014 - Amendment #1 executed adding \$200K in grant funds and extending the grant period to 12/31/2017.
- 8) 7/7/2017 - Amendment #2 executed extending the grant period to 12/31/2019.
- 9) 12/31/2019 - Grant period and work ends, financial and performance reports are begun, final report submitted in full on May 29, 2020.

In the interim of this project, the Department of the Interior introduced a new grant opportunity to be administered by the NFWF entitled, “America’s Great Outdoors: Developing the Next Generation of Conservationists”. It was suggested we may want to apply and compete for the limited funding. We submitted our proposal on 1/25/12, asking for \$80K to hire 8 youth between the ages of 18-25 for a 90-day summer program to be administered by the Southwest Conservation Corps. We entitled our grant “Youth and Wildlife Conservation at Las Cienegas Grasslands”. Of over 300 applicants, we ranked 45<sup>th</sup> but funding ran out at number 30.

Undaunted, we applied again on 1/18/2013 and finished in the top tier to receive full funding at \$80K to be matched by \$80K. The success and details of that separate grant can be read in the Sonoita Herd Zone narrative.

In the aggregate, the 3 grants totaled \$510K. These funds were matched in-kind by:

- 1) \$245K - Rancher/landowner labor, equipment, and materials.
- 2) \$337K - AAF labor, travel, food, equipment, and materials.
- 3) \$569K - Habitat Partnership Funds and other project cash match
- 4) \$ 80K - Pima County Open Space Conservation land-acquisition

\$1.231M - Total In-kind match

+

\$510K - NFWF Grant funds

### **\$1.741M - Final project financial total**

As important as the funding needed to carry out the multi-year project was, it was equally important that the AAF board understand the six different herd zones in which we would be working. Thus on the 2<sup>nd</sup> and 3<sup>rd</sup> of April 2011, a two-day field trip beginning on the Sonoita Plains and ending on the Bonita Grasslands was attended by the entire board. During this tour, five of the six project herd zones were visited (See map on page 7).

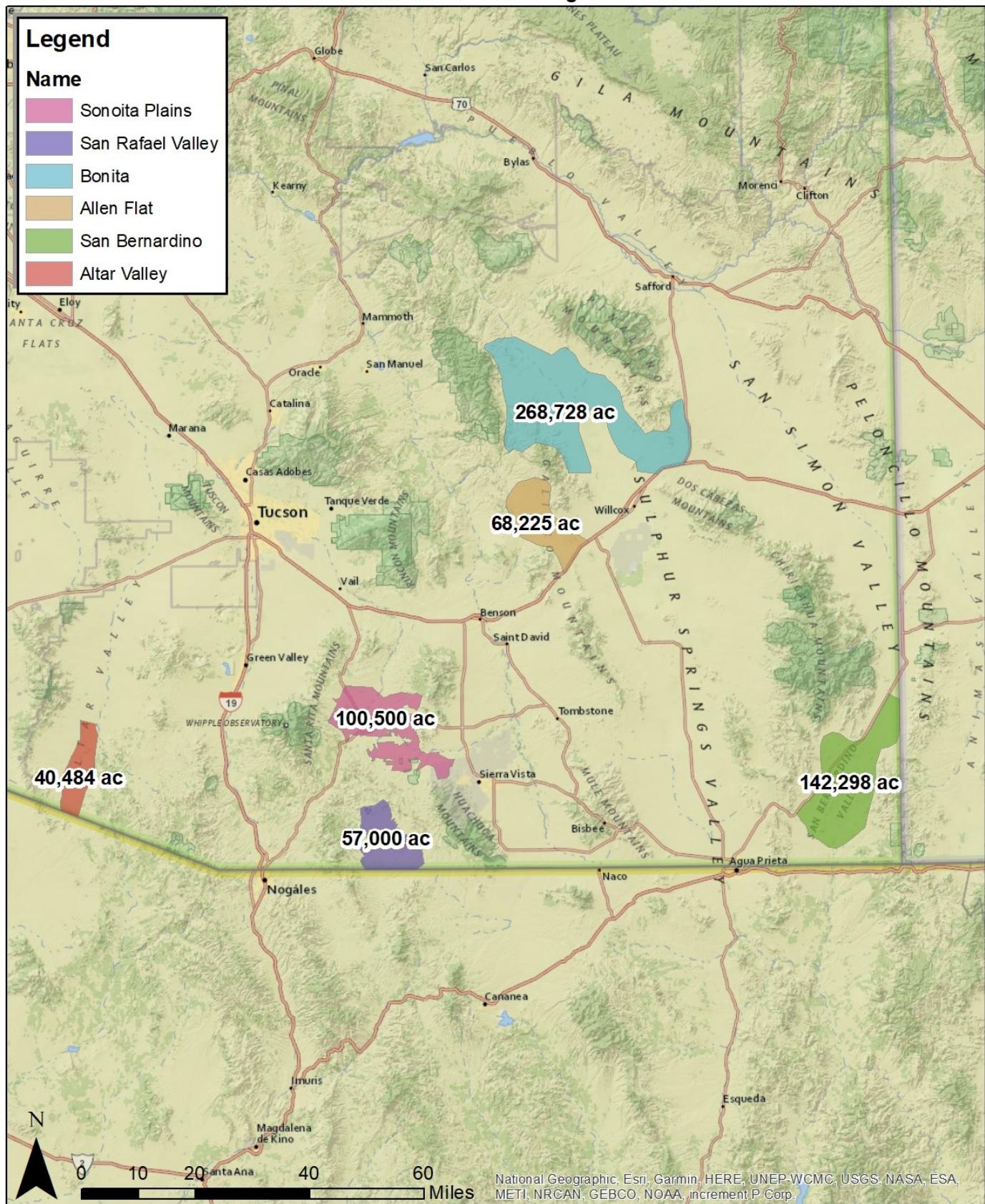
Those six herd zones are:

- 1) Elgin-Sonoita-Las Cienegas Plains Herd Zone (North & South)
- 2) San Rafael Valley Herd Zone
- 3) Bonita Herd Zone
- 4) Allen Flat Herd Zone
- 5) San Bernardino Valley Herd Zone
- 6) Altar Valley Herd Zone

After this field trip, and armed with the aforementioned NFWF core grant funding, AAF and partners accomplished the following between 2012 and 2019:

- Pronghorn connectivity was improved on 191,800 acres in 6 herd zones through 27 fence projects, modifying 105 miles of fencing.
- The majority of that work was accomplished by 769 volunteers who drove 185,517 miles and donated 13,270 hours of labor. University and high school students, as well as Boy Scouts participated in 14 of the fence modification projects.
- Eleven grasslands projects completed in 4 herd zones restored 7,874 acres of grasslands through burning, mesquite grubbing, and spot treatments with herbicides.
- Thirteen water projects were completed to provide year-around water distribution and security in 4 herd zones.
- Ninety-five (95) pronghorn were transplanted to supplement 6 subpopulations. The pronghorn population increased in those subpopulations by a minimum of 548 animals as of August 2019.
- Met the minimum viable population objective of 125 animals in 3 of the 6 subpopulations.
- A long-term GIS data base, including 658 total layers for each of the 6 herd zones, was established to monitor the pronghorn and habitat changes.

## Southeastern Arizona Pronghorn Herd Zones



None of this would have been possible without the AAF Board, volunteers, ranchers, agencies, and cooperators. In this issue we are highlighting our AAF members and project volunteers and our Arizona Game and Fish Department partners. In the next issue we will highlight our myriad of other funders and partners.

## **ARIZONA ANTELOPE FOUNDATION & FREQUENT VOLUNTEERS:**

(Note: these lists may not be all inclusive)

Warren Adams, Mark Akins, Jason Angell, Tom Amparano, Frank Armor, Ward Arnston, Larry Audsley, Lani Beach, Cameron Becker, Bobby Bido, Ray Blanchard, Art Boswell, Mark Boswell, Gary Boyer, Dave Breeden, Dave Brown, Robert & Conner Bueche, Joelle Buffa, John Carr, Roger Steve Clark, Cogan, Ken & Kathy Cook, Jon Coppa, Eddy Corona, Dave Cruce, Ron Day, Glen & Betty Dickens, Norris Dodd, Rene Dube, Glenn Durham, Mike Ebright, Chad Elliott, Ray Emmerich, Pat Frawley, Joey & Tom Fuller, Brian George, Greg Godbehere, Jerry Guevin, Katie Hansforth, Will Hayes, Clay Hernandez, Bob Hernbrode, Terry Herndon, Phil Herrera, Roy Hester, Bill Hoopes, Lou Horvath, Bernice & Gene Isaacs, Kara Jensen, Johnny Johnson, Ken Johnson, Robert Joos, Sherry Kapaldo, Wayne Kaiser, Bill & Mary Keebler, Linda Kennedy, Bill Kibbe, Loren Krebs, Al Krutz, Dave Laird, Tom Lauderback, Jim Lawrence, Jay & Connie Leadabrand, Quentin Lewton, Jim Littlejohn, Richard Marsh, Dale Mass, Zack May, Jim McCasland, Bill McClendon, Art & Allen McGinty, Ken Meadors, Pete Mendoza, Janet Millard, John Millican, Sue Moeller, Mike Morales, Clyde Morris, Ben Morrison, Jay Morrison, Cliff & Lynn Nystrom, Richard Ockenfels, Laura Olais, Oscar Oland, Janet & Andrew Oldak, Caroline Patrick, Joe-Bill Pickrell, William Pinkerton, Earl Polvent, Mallary Rae, Clay Ripley, Dan Robinett, Jordan Rolfe, Richard Roller, Fritz Sawyer, Terry Schupp, Harley Shaw, Bev & Lee Showalter, Kent Smith, Barry & Andy Sopher, Tom Spalding, Netzin Steklis, Sheridan Stone, Shane & Jody Stuart, Al & Marsha Sue, Tice Supplee, Brian & Connie Taylor, Frank Tenent, Darrell & Kolin Tersey, Mark Tervo, Kyle Thompson, Steve Tritz, Jim & Tracy Unmacht, Robert Velasco, Chad Villamore, Tom Waddell, Daniel Ward, Anna Welch, Bill Werner, Steve Williams, Anita Willis, Sandra Wolf, Darrel Wood, and Ron Yee

## **ARIZONA GAME & FISH DEPARTMENT:**

Brian Aragon, George Andrejko, Duane Aubuchon, Josh Avey, John Bacorn, Tom Bagley, Matt Braun, Kirby Bristow, Elliott Bundgaard, Erin Butler, Dave Cagle, Troy Christensen, Jennifer Cordova, Gina Corwin, Clayton Crowder, Dustin Darveau, Kyle Dutro, Al Eiden, Jered Ellingson, Justin Espino, Dennis Fogle, Brandon Folex, Jake Fouser, Mark Freiberg, Brad Fulk, Jeff Gagnon, Virginia Goldsbury, Gilbert Gonzales, Ruth Gregory, Dale Hajek, Mark Hart, George Hayes, Jim Heffelfinger, Heather Heimann, Spud Hester, Holly Hicks, Velma Holt, April Howard, Kimberly Huber, Cody Johnston, Anne Justice-Allen, Danielle Kimas, Karen Klima, AJ Lander, Rick Langley, Shannon Lawrence, Will Lemon, Chad Loberg, Carol Lynde, Dave Majure, Bryan Marshall, Ben McClure, Aaron Miller, Amber Munig, John O'Dell, Brittney Oleson, Matt Pelto, Larry Phoenix, Scott Poppenberger, Ken Pitzlin, Haley Plunkett, Mike Richens, Ray Schweinsburg, Noah Silva, Devin Skinner, Jeremy Smith, Tim Snow, Scott Sprague, Dan Sturla, Kristin Terpening, Ron Thompson, Darren Tucker, Rana Tucker, Bill Vanpelt, Raul Vega, Brian Wakeling, Matthew Walton, Dana Warneke, Micah White, John Windes, Len Wood, and Wade Zarlingo

# PASSIONATE AAF VOLUNTEERS



**ALLEN  
FLAT**



**BONITA**

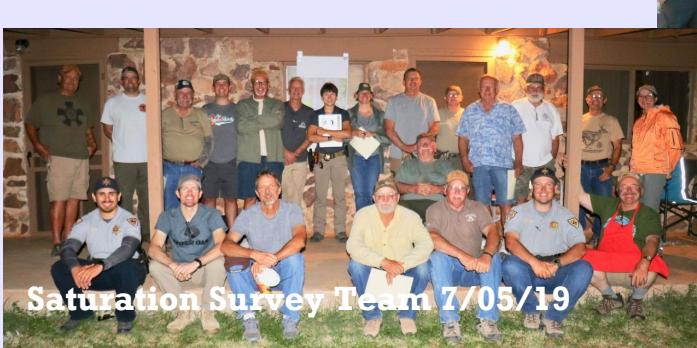
Bonita - Friday Crew 9/27/19



Bonita - Volunteers at the End of  
The Fence 4/13/19



**SONOITA**



Saturation Survey Team 7/05/19



Volunteer Overview 4/14/18

## **DEDICATED AGFD PROFESSIONALS**



To give you some texture for the actual day to day and annual operations of the 8-year effort we include here from the grant report the sections on “Lessons Learned” and the Glossary.

### **3. Lessons Learned**

Describe the key lessons learned from this project, such as the least and most effective conservation practices or notable aspects of the project’s methods, monitoring, or results. How could other conservation organizations adapt their projects to build upon some of these key lessons about what worked best and what did not?

- Begin with the end in mind.
- Develop consensus from all partners before applying for the grant or beginning the work.
- Have a clearly defined set of objectives and outcomes that are measurable and reportable at the ground level, by work project, by herd zone, and by year.
- Include the central and regional offices of the state wildlife agency (in our case the Arizona Game and Fish Department) at the front end of the process. We utilized AGFD’s statewide goals and objectives for pronghorn management to provide the framework for our project proposal, adapting it to the habitats and pronghorn herd zones in southeastern Arizona. We also used their ad-hoc working committee, the *Southeastern Arizona Grasslands Working Group* (SEAGRASS) to develop the consensus for the project’s goals and objectives.
- Hire qualified and motivated Field and GIS managers under contract for \$30 per hour. Contractors should be accountable for their actions, proactive in the execution of their various tasks, and provide detailed monthly reports about project activities and outcomes.
- Hire a Field Manager that can relate to, and speak the language of, landowners. The field manager should not be shy about needing to make repeated requests to ranchers that own critical linkages and/or key habitats that need fence modifications or rebuilding. The Field Manager should also deliver contract materials and/or services on time. *Note: We hired a just-retired AGFD District wildlife manager with 35 years of experience in southeastern Arizona, and who had responsibility for pronghorn management herd zones throughout his 35-year career.*
- The grant administrator must have the business, financial, biological, communication and people skills to motivate, lead, and inspire staff, agency personnel and the NGO’s Board and volunteers. *Note: In our case that individual has an MBA, is a Certified Wildlife Biologist, was serving as Vice President of the AAF, was a retired CFO for the AGFD, and was willing to volunteer all of his hours for 8 years.*
- Landowners, ranchers, and lessees must be approached with a win-win or no deal attitude when requesting improvements or changes to their resources on behalf of the resident pronghorn. In determining the needed improvements, the landowners must realize how also they benefit from the work. *Examples in our case include: Providing improvements and maintenance on a fence while it is being modified to make it pronghorn friendly; Designing grassland restoration projects to be equally valuable to livestock as well as pronghorn; Creating improved water security for both livestock and wildlife by adding water storage, solarizing windmill wells, and increasing water lines and troughs.*

(3. Lessons Learned continued)

- Sharing project costs with landowners, ranchers, and lessees is critical. We always attempted to negotiate a minimum 50-50 agreement using both hard dollars and in-kind labor, materials, and equipment.
- Utilize and nurture volunteers. Volunteer labor was an invaluable contribution to the ultimate success of this project. The miles of fence they modified helped us exceed the grant's connectivity objective of 100,000 acres. The AAF did an outstanding job at providing suitable camp sites, meals, equipment, toilets, and esprit de corps for each and every project weekend inducing further participation at upcoming fence projects.
- Work in concert with land management agencies, conservation organizations, and public working groups to develop collaboration and achieve trust. Toward this effort, provide technical and professional input during the initiation of large-scale habitat enhancement plans. *Examples include: We worked directly with the Bureau of Land Management (BLM) in the development of an EA to inform prescribed fire plans across an array of public, private, and state lands; We coordinated communications between landowners and the Natural Resources Conservation Service (NRCS) about grassland restoration protocols, and prescriptions on differing ecological habitat types to enhance diversity for grassland wildlife species.*
- Provide educational opportunities and benefits to generate community-based awareness and support by partnering with local school districts, Universities, Boy Scouts, and other youth groups. Include this educational element in grant development. *Examples include partnering with the Southwest Conservation Corp for fence modification work, providing an Eagle Scout with a relevant project, involving Tombstone High School's FFA students in a pronghorn ecological study, U of A wildlife student fence project participation, and a university student "Pronghorn Values" survey in Sonoita/Elgin.*
- Plan for, develop, incorporate, and update GIS mapping to identify project needs, movement bottlenecks, and corridors.
- Continue to monitor projects over the long term to determine maintenance needs and identify best management practices and treatment methods to continue to meet restoration objectives.
- Dedicate long-term funding to ongoing habitat maintenance projects.

## **GLOSSARY**

**Connectivity  
Permeability**

Pronghorn habitat and grasslands within a common herd zone are considered connected and permeable if the dividing roadway right-of-way (connected) or the interior livestock pasture fences (permeable) meet the prescribed pronghorn friendly fence standard allowing pronghorn to move freely and unobstructed between and among pastures.

**Crossing Zone**

A known and identified path or area that resident pronghorn prefer to use to cross paved or maintained roadways.

**Fawning Zone**

A preferred grassland use area occupied by pronghorn does during peak fawning/birthing season (April 15-June 30) within 1-mile of a water point.

**Fence Modification**

The act of organized volunteers, contractors, or landowners modifying or removing and rebuilding a 5-strand fence to a wildlife standard 4-strand fence with the smooth bottom wire located at 16", 18", or 20" from the ground.

**Fence Standard**

The spacing and type of wire that makes a highway right-of-way or grazing pasture fence wildlife friendly. For pronghorn, the bottom wire should be smooth wire set at a minimum of 16" from the ground, but preferably 18"-20".

**Grubbing**

The removal via digging of invasive mesquite trees or shrubs with the use of a large excavator often with a specialized bucket and attachment.

**Habitat Partnership  
Committee Funds**

Dollars derived from the sale and auction of 3-antelope tags. 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. Once annual project proposals are submitted, the AGFD coordinates with these wildlife conservation organizations and funding is allocated to the projects that provide the most benefit to big game species in Arizona.

**Herd Zone**

A geographically connected grassland habitat in which resident individual pronghorn can seasonally interact, reproduce, and are recognized as part of a common gene pool.

**Neonate Life Stage**

The 1-4-week life stage of a newborn pronghorn fawn during which time it hides itself 24 hours a day and is visited by the mother for feeding and grooming twice a day.

*(Glossary continued)*

<b>Nursery Herd</b>	An important life stage during which does and their fawns group together into small herds for the young pronghorn to begin to “learn” how to be a pronghorn and interact socially. In SE AZ populations, pronghorn most commonly begin to gather into nursery herds by July.
<b>Prescribed Burning</b>	Using a controlled burn plan and operation to burn and improve grassland fecundity and reduce shrubs and young mesquites. Very favorable for creating pronghorn forage.
<b>Pronghorn Neonate</b>	A newborn pronghorn fawn less than 1 month of age.
<b>Pronghorn Predation</b>	During the 1-4-week neonate life stage, the newborn fawn is most vulnerable to predation by coyotes, bobcats, and raptors. Studies in AZ, NM, and TX have verified fawn losses in this life stage as high as 80-90%.
<b>Reintroduction Translocation</b>	The capture of pronghorn from healthy and robust populations, and subsequent release into suitable vacant or occupied pronghorn habitat with the objectives to both increase the resident population and improve its long-term genetic viability.
<b>Saturation Survey</b>	A survey completed on foot or from vehicles between sunrise and 10:00 AM on a specified day in July by organized volunteers and wildlife biologists, each within an assigned “survey area.” During the survey, participants count and sex adult pronghorn and surviving newborn fawns.
<b>Survey</b>	The official annual count of pronghorn populations completed by AGFD in August via fixed-wing aircraft, during which adult pronghorn and surviving newborn fawns are counted and sexed.
<b>Travel Corridor</b>	A known geographic zone or area that, due to fencing or roads, can act as either a barrier or a pathway for resident pronghorn to interconnect larger pieces of pronghorn habitat.
<b>Water Point</b>	A water trough, drinker, or available earthen tank that can be utilized seasonally or year-around by pronghorn.
<b>Water Project</b>	Creating or improving existing pasture water sources such as wells with windmills or earthen water tanks by tank clean out, well solarization, adding water storage, or adding distribution lines to new water points.



# SONORAN PRONGHORN UPDATE



FIGURES AND PHOTOS BY JILL BRIGHT AZ GAME & FISH  
APRIL- MAY 2020

## ***Captive Breeding:*** **Cabeza Pen**

The pronghorn are being observed on a regular basis during scoping and appear to be doing well. We believe all the females have given birth and there are 15 fawns in north herd and 18 in south herd. There was 0.11 inches of rain in early April, but none since and the pen is drying out rapidly. Alfalfa consumption has been steadily increasing and the biologists have started to irrigate the native forage in the pen. The pen biologists have been busy monitoring recruitment in the pen, monitoring released/wild animals in the Childs Valley, and irrigating and maintaining the habitat enhancements for wild pronghorn in Child's Valley and in the Sauceda subunit.

NORTH HALF		SOUTH HALF	
Adult Females	10	Adult Females	12
Yearling Females (b 2018)	9	Yearling Females (b 2018)	9
Adult Males	4	Adult Males	3
Yearling Males (b 2018)	5	Yearling Males (b 2018)	17
Fawns (b 2019, 10F, 6M)	15	Fawns (b 2019, 15M, 12F)	18
Total	43	Total	59
Total Pen	102		

## **Kofa Pen**

The Kofa pronghorn are doing well. All the females have given birth, and there are 16 fawns in the pen. In early April, 2 young fawns were found dead in the pen, but cause of death could not be determined. Photos from automatic cameras in the pen revealed there had been bobcat in the pen but it was several days prior to the fawn mortalities, and is not believed to be the cause of death. The biologist attempted to trap the bobcat but it was never observed or trapped after the photos. The biologists have completed the barb wire extension on top of the perimeter fence and we have not had any bobcats in the pen since. There has been no measurable rain at the pen and it is also drying out and alfalfa consumption is increasing. The biologists are busy trying to figure out how to make the Kofa solar well work more consistently, monitoring recruitment in the pen, and monitoring and maintaining several habitat enhancements for wild pronghorn in King Valley.

Adult Females	14
Yearling Females (b 2018)	6
Adult Males	2
Yearling Males (b 2018)	11
Fawns (b 2019, 11M, 6F)	16
Total	49

Due to ongoing coronavirus related restrictions, we have been unable to do any aerial telemetry since early March. Consequently we have no information on the VHF collared animals or fawn recruitment in the wild. We also have been unable to assess range wide habitat conditions, but there has been no known appreciable rain in the last 2 months, and the desert is drying out.

**Wild Pronghorn Cabeza/ORPI/BMGR Herd:** Several pronghorn released this winter on ORPI and Cabeza have returned to the vicinity of the pen. Other ORPI GPS collared released animals have remained in the Valley of the Ajo and adjacent BLM and USFWS lands.

**Wild Pronghorn Kofa Herd:** One GPS collared doe released on YPG East Arm this winter moved all the way across northern Kofa refuge, crossed Highway 95, remained on YPG for several weeks and has since returned to north of Kofa. The other GPS animals are either in the Palomas Plains area, or on YPG south of Kofa. One GPS buck was found dead just west of some agricultural land north of Hyder under suspicious circumstances. This is the same area another buck died in January under suspicious circumstances. An AGFD law enforcement investigation is ongoing. A small group of VHF and uncollared animals has been observed off and on just east of Highway 95 north of Stone Cabin.

**Wild Pronghorn Sauceda Herd:** One GPS collared buck crossed Highway 85 and has been north of the Crater Mountains, venturing near Interstate 8 east of Dateland and west toward the Mohawk Mountains. The other GPS animals seem to be integrating with wild animals and are north and south of the Sauceda Mountains.

**Water Projects:** We have been unable to build the new Ku:Wud water in the Sauceda subunit due to coronavirus related restriction against gatherings of more than 10 people. Numerous pronghorn are now using the temporary Ku:Wud water and therefore we will not build it until fall/winter as we don't want to disturb them or prevent access to water while we are constructing the new water. Personnel are maintaining the temporary water there and at Hat Mountain until the pronghorn are established using the new Hat Mountain water.

**Forage Enhancements:** Habitat conditions in the vicinity of the forage enhancements are drying out rapidly and we have begun irrigation and/or providing alfalfa at these sites. Numerous pronghorn including several fawns have been documented using Devils Hills, Point of the Pintas, Knucklehead, Uken, Morgart and Charlie Bell sites.

**Other Projects:** Plans are continuing for an eventual release of Sonoran pronghorn on BLM land within the Sonoran Desert National Monument. BLM is working on the necessary NEPA work for this project.

Written June 8, 2020

## **COVID-19 AND UTILIZING ADAPTIVE MANAGEMENT FOR OUR ANNUAL 2020 HUNTERS CLINIC**

Having made the decision to cancel our planned June 13<sup>th</sup> annual hunter awards and banquet in early April the board still wanted to somehow safely put on our annual Hunters Clinic planned for the same date. What evolved from our discussions was to hold our first ever ZOOM online clinic but professionally record each of the 6 presenters segments for 2020 and future online marketing opportunities.

We quickly hired an endorsed local valley media company called Schnebly Hill Media managed by Allen Butler located in Surprise. Film dates were May 21<sup>st</sup> and 28<sup>th</sup> and our various expert presenters were scheduled over those two days to record sessions on:

Trophy Evaluation - Glen Dickens

Photography - Betty Dickens

Hunting Techniques - Jim McCasland

Archery Hunting Techniques - Corky Richardson

Taxidermy Field Care - Frank James

Optics - Joe Mannino

With the cooperation of the Arizona Game and Fish Department each of the 689 successful 2020 pronghorn tag recipients received a letter inviting them to participate in the no-cost clinic. Of those contacted, 91 registered and over 60 attended the 3-hour clinic MC'd by AAF board member and Communications Director Kara Jensen. Fifteen of the attendees signed on as new AAF members for our annual membership fee of \$40. After all 6 film segments had been completed, all of the presenters participated in a question and answer session that lasted for over 45 minutes with the zoom format working well for such a large group.

We conducted an online follow-up customer satisfaction survey and received 28 completed surveys. The overall rating on a scale of 1 to 5 with 5 being the highest was 4.65 or a 93% satisfaction rate! Success! Included below are some comments we received in the personal feedback/comment section;

- \* Thank you for providing it, was absolutely phenomenal.
- \* Thank you for all the work you put into this. It was very well done. I am proud to be a member of the AAF.
- \* I was most impressed by the willingness of your presenters to share their personal contact information and offer to provide advice over the phone to those needing it. Overall really appreciate the opportunity to participate.
- \* The presenters all were great.
- \* The two best parts of the meeting were 1. having Q&A access to the experts during the call and 2. the generosity of the experts to supply their contact info for follow up questions. I enjoyed the format and overall interaction very much in spite of my ZOOM inadequacies.
- \* It was my first time attending and I thought it was very informative.
- \* It should be free to members. So it would be an incentive to join.

As we all would prefer, we hope to be presenting the 2021 Hunters Clinic in person next June in conjunction with our annual banquet. Now that we have this product, we have made the decision that all current and active AAF members will have access as part of their annual membership benefit along, of course, with our award-winning quarterly *Pronghorn* magazine

# MEMBERSHIP

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77. Billie Bechtel, Show Low
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Darrel E. Wood, Marana

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Ken & Kathy Cook, Casa Grande  
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Charles Wilmer Jr., Phoenix  
Michael Christopher, Show Low

## WELCOME TO NEW MEMBERS

Eric Ackerman, Solvang CA  
Leroy Asplin Jr., Kingman  
Ralph Bosse, Mesa  
William Bryan, Goodyear  
Michael Christopher, Show Low (Family)  
Matthew Clark, Buckeye  
Craig Edwards, Buckeye

Anthony Hamel, Chandler  
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John W. Marriott, Surprise  
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602-405-6781

[louraggio@hotmail.com](mailto:louraggio@hotmail.com)

*Thank You!*

**Keeping them Common**



**GREETINGS!**



Welcome to all the new AAF members! It is an uplifting feeling to see people are still committing to learn and planning to volunteer to assist these amazing animals to live better lives and to thrive. Generations to come will also appreciate the efforts of all our steadfast members and volunteers. Thank you to all, on behalf of the pronghorn and the AAF.

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](http://www.azantelope.org)



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