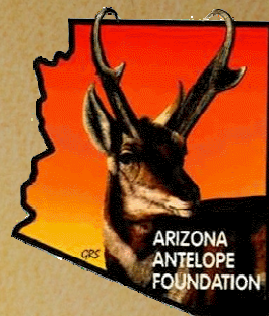


PRONGHORN



BONNIE SWARRICK

1st Quarter 2008

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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 15501, Phoenix, AZ 85060, or by email at info@azantelope.org.

PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

The New Year has begun well. For the first time in quite a while there is an awesome snow pack in the North Country. Water catchments are full and the land is turning green instead of brown! Hard to know how long it will last, but this is a good start for pronghorn to have a great fawning year.

All the snow and rain and wet resulted in the cancellation of plans to capture pronghorn in Region III and re-locate them to Anderson Mesa. The good news is that the herd on Anderson Mesa seems to be doing better. All the investment in habitat work, predator hunting and making fences pronghorn friendly is paying off.

I attended the annual Diablo Trust meeting where the theme was "Taking the Wreck out of Recreation". All the people in this wonderful state of ours are overwhelming the land when they go out and play. There was good discussion about ways to manage for wildlife and people and the ranches. A summary of the thoughts and ideas of the group will be out in a little while.

More pronghorn were successfully captured and had radio telemetry attached up in the Big Chino Valley. Richard Ockenfels coordinated this effort before he retired from the game and fish. They are going to miss him and we hope he spends some time in Arizona and still helps out our pronghorn now that he is a retired guy.



The Big Chino antelope are being monitored by a student AAF is helping to fund in partnership with The Nature Conservancy. The Prescott Forest and local ranchers are all pitching in with funding and the work is really giving us great information.

I got my applications in for pronghorn and elk-here is hoping...Luck to all of you who applied.

Be sure to check our website for upcoming volunteer events and put our banquet in your calendar. We will be hosting the drawings for the Big Game Super Raffle. Come join us in the fun!

Tice Supplee

ON THE COVER

Bonnie Swarbrick's wildlife paintings are featured in conservation publications, greeting cards, and museum murals. Her artistry and her education career with nature centers and the U.S. Fish & Wildlife Service earned her induction into the Arizona Outdoor Hall of Fame in 2006.

The beautiful pronghorn painting featured on our cover also graces the cover of our new book *Arizona's Pronghorn Antelope...A Conservation Legacy* by David Brown and Richard Ockenfels.

Thank you Bonnie!

WE'VE MOVED

Well, sort of. We have a new mailing address. Please send all correspondence to:

AZ Antelope Foundation
PO Box 12590
Glendale, AZ 85318

VISIT US ON THE WORLD WIDE WEB
www.azantelope.org
info@azantelope.org

MEETINGS

Board meetings are held at 6:30 P.M on the 2nd Monday of each month at the Phoenix Zoo. Visitors welcome!

WINSLOW GRASSLANDS PROJECT

BY TICE SUPPLEE

I met Wade Zarlingo, the Landowner Relations Specialist with the Arizona Game and Fish Department, in Winslow, not far from that now famous statue “standing on the corner...” We drove north through the grasslands and were rewarded when we spotted a herd of pronghorn and two Ferruginous Hawks (I had to mention the grassland birds!) The first stop was the Ohaco Ranch project that was jointly funded by Arizona Antelope Foundation, Rocky Mountain Elk Foundation and the Arizona Elk Society. I hear concerns about Arizona Antelope Foundation partnering with projects that also benefit elk, so I was very curious to see what this project looked like.

We were completely in luck, the machines were at work! The contractor for this job had recently purchased a very large CAT with a shearing saw that



really looked like it meant business. I joked that this machine could be part of the plot in the next Tony Hillerman murder mystery; it really makes kindling of juniper trees in a big hurry! If you really want to get a sense of the work it does, go to the Arizona Antelope Foundation web site and click on the movie clips. Within seconds this saw cut down and crushed a good sized juniper.

Once the junipers are crushed up a second machine is used to pulverize the stump and the debris. When all is done there is no hulking carcass to obstruct the view of pronghorn, yet the remains are there to catch and hold moisture and be shade and protection for new grass and half-shrub seedlings to get a start. This ranch has invested in extensive water distribution systems and the quality of the grasslands in this area was excellent. The purpose of building more waters was to distribute not only the cattle but the elk, it seems to be working. Wildlife Manager Kenny Clay is doing a really good job of managing the elk population with a good hunt

management strategy, so elk numbers in the unit are reasonable.

Another concern I have heard about these projects is that pinyon trees and older age junipers are removed, adversely impacting birds, bats and other wildlife species dependent on older trees and particularly pinyon pine. What I observed about this treatment area was that there were very few to no pinyon pine trees. The site is historic grasslands and junipers are the first to invade these sites. Also, the majority of the junipers



were smaller diameter trees. Recognizing the value of larger trees for thermal cover and wildlife habitat, the contractor has instructions to not exceed a certain diameter, so larger trees are being left. Also rocky sites and deep and narrow draws are not being treated, creating a mosaic of habitat types across the larger landscape. Junipers are being selectively removed from a few of the rocky sites that have browse species to “release” the browse, benefiting mule deer and other wildlife.



Continued on page 5

Winslow Grasslands Project continued from page 4

Our afternoon stop was a short trip north and west to look at the project area on Chevelon Butte Ranch, also owned and managed by the Ohaco family. The project is being funded in part by the Arizona Elk Society, and hopefully they will be successful in securing a Wildlife Conservation Fund national grant. I was very pleased to see that the acres proposed for treatment were all grasslands with recent encroachment by juniper and Algerita, also called Barberry (*Berberis* spp). Jimmy Ohaco joined us for a while and gave a little history about this site. His Dad had chained this country and seeded it with native grasses back in the 1960's. Almost all of the juniper trees are of small diameter, a reflection of the relatively young age of these plants. The ranch plans to adopt a fire management plan after this treatment and use natural fire in the future to keep the grasslands from once again becoming shrub and juniper invaded. The same contractor will be doing this project, which will yield great benefits for pronghorn antelope, although being paid for with "elk" money.

We finished the day on top of Chevelon Butte, so we could get a good view of both projects. Wade has established photo points from this vantage for long term monitoring of the projects. We noticed that many of the pinyon pine (*Pinus edulis* and *Pinus Monophylla*) that were at this higher elevation had died. It was encouraging to see some young trees that looked healthy. We are right to be concerned about pinyon pines. These diminutive pine trees have been hit hard by the drought and beetle kill. The "nuts", apart from being great in pesto sauce, are an important winter food for wildlife, including band tailed pigeons, turkeys, and pinyon jays.



PRONGHORN CAPTURE & RESEARCH MAY LEAD TO FIRST ANTELOPE OVERPASS

BY ARIZONA GAME & FISH

"Helicopter 11, this is GF 874. We have four pronghorn spotted about two miles away. Make a 90-degree right turn and they will be in your 12-o'clock position," said research biologist Norris Dodd over the handheld radio while gazing through his powerful spotting scope. Dodd was guiding the helicopter during a pronghorn-antelope capture effort on Dec. 6-7 along the Highway 89 corridor north of Flagstaff, as part of research efforts that are paving the way for creating the what will likely be the first-ever pronghorn overpass in North America when this popular highway is widened in the future.

swooped down and the chase was on. And it wasn't a slow chase. Pronghorn antelope are the fastest mammals in North America – these speedsters can reach speeds up to 60 mph.



With the helicopter flying just above the racing herd, the door gunner stood on the skids, eased forward in his sturdy harness and waited for the perfect shot with the net gun. The shot rang out and the weighted net was propelled by a .308-caliber cartridge over the speeding doe.

The helicopter did a quick turn, flared, and landed. The spotter in the front assumed his other duty – being a "mugger." He quickly exited the bird with the shooter close on his heels to

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ARIZONA'S PRONGHORN

BY K.C. KARTCHNER

FOREWORD BY DAVID BROWN

This 1931 article, written by Ken Kartchner, and published in *Arizona Sportsmen*, appeared when Arizona's pronghorn were recovering from their nadir around the time of World War I. *Arizona Sportsman* magazine was then the publication of the Arizona Game Protective Association (now the Arizona Wildlife Federation), which had a pronghorn as its logo prior to 1953. Kartchner himself was a true pioneer, a cowboy who became an early Forest Service ranger and eventually State Game Warden—the equivalent of today's Director. He was also a renowned fiddler, often being called upon to play at dances in remote ranches and villages.

Kartchner was a great believer in predator control and attributed the recovery of Arizona's antelope after 1920 to the removal of *lobos* and other varmints. In retrospect, however, it should also be mentioned that nearly every year from 1917 through the 1920s was a year during which the Flagstaff area received above average precipitation. One also suspects that Kartchner's census of 75 head of antelope on Anderson Mesa in 1920 was more accurate than E. W. Nelson's 1922 estimate of 25. One therefore has to also assume that Kartchner's population estimate "toward the 2,000 mark," was a reasonable figure for the winter of 1930-31.

Kartchner's other information is also reliable. Based on the studies of A. A. Nichol at the University of Arizona, he correctly reports that grasses comprised less than 5% of the pronghorn's diet, and that pronghorn compete directly with cattle and sheep for "weeds." Old photos show junipers, a plant that rarely shows signs of being hedged today, was obviously then a major winter browse. It is also of interest that he considered the sheep ranges on Anderson Mesa to be in better shape than the cattle ranges during the time of pronghorn recovery. That he reported seeing a winter herd of 700 animals is also of interest as are his observations of pronghorn in ponderosa pine forest in that the former observation is never seen today while the latter remains commonplace.

The traps at Chavez Pass and Soldier Lake had an important history in their own right. After some disappointing attempts to capture pronghorn in the 1930s and 1940s, during which most of the captured animals were killed, success was finally achieved when the Department acquired pronghorn winter range by purchasing Raymond Ranch. Subsequent trapping and translocation attempts were thereafter successful with hundreds of pronghorn eventually being trapped and released in vacant ranges throughout Arizona.

AUTILOCAPRA AMERICANA

is the scientific name for one of Western America's interesting game animals whose numbers, when the white man first encroached upon his domain, ran into many millions. The American Pronghorn antelope, of keen curiosity and a gregarious turn of mind, running in bunches of from five to several hundred in the open plains country has not held his own so well against the westward-moving civilization as have certain other species which depend upon vegetative cover and nocturnal habits for life protection. Dr. George Bird Brinnell, after estimating the original herd of American buffalo to have numbered between 30,000,000 and 60,000,000 animals, and that in 1870 there were only 5,500,000 surviving, has this to say concerning the former abundance of antelope: "For many years I have held the opinion that in early days on the plains, as I saw them, antelope were much more abundant than buffalo. Antelope, smaller and less conspicuous in color, were often passed unnoticed, except by a person of experience, who might recognize that distant white dots might be antelope and not buffalo bones or puff balls. I



used to talk on this subject with men who were on the plains in the '60's and '80's and all agreed that, so far as their judgment went, there were more antelope than buffalo. Often the buffalo were bunched up into vast herds and gave the impression of great numbers. The antelope were scattered and except in winter, when I have seen herds of thousands, they were pretty evenly distributed over the prairie."

In what is now Arizona, the Spanish conquistadors found antelope along the slopes and foothills of the Gila and numerous other valleys of the southern portion, as well as an abundance of these unique prairie animals all through the northern part. This was early in the sixteenth century and while little is written concerning game conditions at that time, it appears certain the Spaniards, with their primitive shooting irons, were but a small factor in reducing antelope herds. It remained for the later gold seeker, rancher, agriculturist and the other classes of pioneers who blazed the way west during the nineteenth century, and their posterity, to take the deadly

Continued on page 12

5TH ANNUAL FUNDRAISING BANQUET

JULY 19, 2008 EL ZARIBAH SHRINE PHOENIX

Planning is underway for our very important fundraising banquet. At the time of this publication, ticket prices, raffle ticket incentive packages, and other details are being finalized, but you can be sure, this will be the best ever. Back again will be Live and Silent Auctions, Raffles for Art, Great Hunts, Fishing Trips, Firearms, Hunting, Fishing and Camping Gear, and **lots of fun**. Watch your mail for ticket information coming soon, and be sure to check our website for updates.

Major Donor Plan

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- ¼ page black & white ad in the banquet program
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To purchase tickets, visit our website where you can print the ticket order form, or call Tracy at 602-361-6478. **Thanks to Bruce Gibson and Sportsman's Warehouse for once again donating this beautiful rifle!**



SONORAN PRONGHORN

UPDATE



BY JILL BRIGHT AZ GAME & FISH
FEBRUARY 28, 2008

Captive Breeding:

North Half: All the pronghorn are doing well, no sign of any fawns yet.

Southwest Quarter: All the pronghorn are doing well, no sign of any fawns yet.

On February 12-14, we attempted to dart and move the nine male yearlings from both the north and southwest herds to the Southeast quarter, in order to reduce harassment to does and newborn fawns. Unfortunately, we ran into a series of problems. First, the pen is very green with abundant forage, so the pronghorn are not coming into the alfalfa feeders with any frequency, which is where our blinds are set up to dart from. One morning, we were able to dart two young bucks in the southwest quarter. One dart did not release any drug so we were not able to capture that animal. The second one was darted and drugged as usual, but he became overheated. He was cooled down with fluids and drugs, and moved to the southeast quarter. However, he died in the pen 2 days later. In the afternoon, we were able to dart 2 more animals in the north herd. Unfortunately, one dart missed the intended buck and hit a doe yearling. We caught her, reversed the drug, attached an ear tag and let her go again in the same pen. She is still alive and well. We also darted a buck yearling, but his temperature went up to 110°, and he died before we could move him. Based on these unfortunate events, we decided to stop attempting to move these bucks. We will leave the rest of them in their respective pens, and monitor to determine if, in fact, they cause any injury or death to any fawns or does. We are also working on developing another method of capturing and moving animals around the pen for the future. We hope to visit the peninsular pronghorn captive breeding project in Baja, where they use a modified corral trap method, to learn this technique and see if it is useful for our purposes.

Southeast Quarter: The 5 juvenile bucks in this section are doing well. On January 11-12, we captured 4 of these bucks and placed GPS radio collars on them in anticipation of their release into the wild. We opened a 40-foot gate in February near where they had been feeding on alfalfa to allow them to leave the pen. Unfortunately, they do not want to leave. We had the gate open for 11 days, put alfalfa outside the gate, put up pronghorn decoys outside the gate, tried to gently move them out the gate, all to no avail. In fact, they began avoiding that area of their pen after the first couple of days. So we put the gate back up to let them get comfortable using that area again, and they have been periodically using the feeder. Adding to our problems is that the natural forage in the pen is very abundant and green, so they are not feeding on the alfalfa very much. We just took the gate down again today, in hopes they will go out. If they haven't left by the time we start to get new fawns in the pen, we will put the gate up again, to make sure no predators get into the pen while there are young fawns.

We hired a new pen monitor, Clayton Crowder, who started this week. He is from Phoenix, and should make a good addition to the team at the pen.

Water Projects: Nothing new to report at this time.

Forage Enhancements: All the forage enhancements are very green at this time. The pen monitors have seen and heard telemetry signals of pronghorn using the Charlie Bell forage plot in the last week.

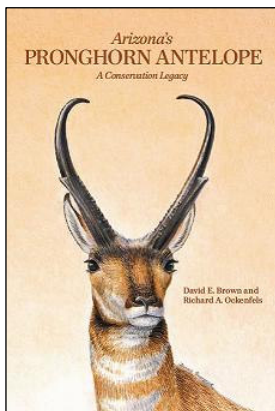
Other Projects: Nothing new to report at this time.

Wild Pronghorn: Nothing new to report at this time.



PRONGHORN BOOK

“ARIZONA’S PRONGHORN ANTELOPE – A CONSERVATION LEGACY”
BY DAVID BROWN AND RICHARD OCKENFELS



Sales have been brisk and feedback indicates those who have purchased are thoroughly enjoying this fantastic book!

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Softcover copies: \$20.00 for AAF members; \$30.00 for non-members
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Pronghorn Capture continued from page 5

help. The two biologists worked quickly but delicately to subdue the antelope struggling in the net. They put blinders on the doe and it calmed down significantly.

With their hearts still pounding in their chests from exertion and excitement, the biologists – Carl Lutch and Larry Phoenix – methodically took various bodily fluid samples, gave the pronghorn a shot of antibiotics, and fitted it with a radio telemetry collar so its movements can be tracked during the upcoming 365 days. Then with wide smiles of satisfaction, the biologists released the young female so she could rejoin the herd.



One down and 15 more to go...it was not just another day at the office.

The biologists were capturing 16 pronghorn antelope along 18 miles of the Highway 89 corridor through the Antelope Hills area. The captured antelope were fitted with radio telemetry collars as part of an ongoing pronghorn movement research study being conducted by Arizona Game and Fish Department biologists.

These biologists are tracking pronghorn movements to advise the Arizona Department of Transportation on how best to help these pronghorn herds when Highway 89 is widened in the future. Highway 89 is the primary route providing motorists with access to popular recreation areas north of Flagstaff and into Utah. It is also a major highway artery for the Navajo Nation. This highway across the high plains of the Colorado Plateau north of the San Francisco Peaks will only get busier in the future.

The goal is to meet the need of motorists in the future while lessening the impact to antelope movements. Biologists are confident it can be done, but there are no guarantees when dealing with the first-of-its-kind overpass. What is currently envisioned is a wide, naturally vegetated overpass structure over U.S. 89 to

facilitate pronghorn movement across this busy highway corridor.

Although such highway crossing projects have been instituted for other animals, such as underpasses for elk along Highway 260 along the Mogollon Rim, no such project has been instituted for antelope. There is a successful large wildlife overpass in Canada near Banff, Alberta that is used by various species, such as elk, deer, and bear.

“Wildlife passage structures have shown tremendous benefits in promoting passage for a variety of wildlife species,” said Dodd, the biologist who is leading the research team effort on the high grasslands of Arizona.

Why all the concern about pronghorn movements? Pronghorn antelope are a species of special concern in Arizona. Historically, this state probably had more than 45,000 pronghorn roaming its abundant grasslands. Those numbers had plummeted to well below 8,000, but we currently have around 11,000. The grassland habitats themselves have been significantly reduced over time.

These high grasslands are disappearing at an alarming rate for a number of reasons, such as human development and woody-plant encroachment. The grassland habitats that remain are often fragmented by man-made obstacles such as roads and fences. Increasing fragmentation raises concerns that isolated pockets of antelope might lose genetic viability.

These amazing speedsters are on a man-caused crash dive that has been exacerbated by drought. Scientists are striving to at least slow down this unwelcome juggernaut.



Photos by AZ Game & Fish

JOIN US FOR OUR 16TH ANNUAL HUNTER CLINIC ON JUNE 17TH SPORTSMAN'S WAREHOUSE I-17 & YORKSHIRE

Draw results should be available soon, but whether you have an antelope tag or not, you are welcome to come to the Sportsman's Warehouse on June 17th to increase your knowledge of pronghorn and pronghorn hunting! We plan on having another great slate of speakers to give you pointers on what to do, and why! And Game & Fish Wildlife Managers from various units will be on hand to share information on your particular game unit.

If you're an AAF member, come out and visit your fellow AAF members, it won't cost you anything. Non-members will be asked to contribute a nominal donation which can be applied toward AAF membership through 2009.

Antelope hunting can be immensely enjoyable if you know what you're doing, otherwise it can be immensely frustrating! This clinic will provide excellent up-to-date information about everything you need to know for a successful hunt. We'll cover the following subjects:

- Arizona Pronghorn History
- State of Arizona's Pronghorn
- Optics & Photography
- Taxidermy
- Practical Field Care
- Hunting Tactics for Firearms and Archery
- Question and Answer Session
- Discussions with Game & Fish Wildlife Managers for your Unit

Watch your mail and our website for more details.

FROM THE E-MAIL BAG

These photos were sent in by Gary Maschner. His friend Bill Vance created the interesting decoy, and although cumbersome, it worked like a charm for Gary's 18A muzzleloader hunt last September.



“Arizona’s Pronghorn” continued from page 6

toll which reduced the number of these fleet animals to a pitiful few by the end of that eventful 100-year period just past. Over vast areas the bobbing white specks that told the trail blazer of running antelope had ceased to be a part of the landscape and it looked as if the Pronghorn was doomed to extinction. Already the native White Mountain Elk had been exterminated. Deer, turkey and fur bearers had come in for a lot of rough handling and for the first time there came an appeal to the latent sportsmanship of the few far-sighted citizens which was to form the foundation for constructive game conservation in Arizona. Protective laws were enacted, although rather crude at first and seldom observed. But as time went on with ever increasing strength being added to the ranks of game protectionists, there came about a more-or-less complete education of the public to a program of conserving existing game resources and recuperating swindled herds. Antelope were given the protection of a closed season and by 1910 a definite campaign against predators was underway, not so much for protection of game as to prevent losses of livestock. Many are the ramifications that entered into these rapidly changing conditions, but only the high-spots are touched upon here.

As has later been proven, this change in the public’s viewpoint, plus the war on wolves, lions, coyotes and bobcats, came in time only to save a small remnant of these noble habitués of Arizona’s prairies. In Apache county two small bands of around a dozen each still battle against odds to maintain their numbers, one in the vicinity of the Petrified Forest and the other east of Springerville, at the base of the White Mountains.

Incidentally, whoever heard of a black antelope? One of the animals in the latter band is just that. Believe it or not Navajo county, where even in my time as a small boy in the ‘90’s I have seen several hundred antelope in a day’s bare-back ride after cattle, now has left but an occasional straggler. Such is the condition throughout the central and southern parts of the state. During a year’s field work for the game department, I rarely saw or heard of any antelope outside of Coconino, Mohave and Yavapai counties, and those places I have already mentioned. At Safford, I learned of four females ranging in the lowlands west of Mount Graham in Graham county, and promised the Safford Game Protective Association a buck or two whenever success may attend the attempted trapping operations in Coconino county. In a few other instances from one to five animals survive around the grassy bases of our southern mountains, emerging like islands from Arizona’s desert country.



Having painted the dark side of the picture, brighter hues may be applied to the other. In Yavapai county a herd of seventeen antelope, although in a thrifty condition, can be seen from the highway through Chino Valley almost any day and other smaller bands seem to be either holding their own or on the increase. In Mohave county north of Seligman, the next largest herd in the state is to be found. Arizona’s Pronghorn have actually increased in the past ten years under favorable conditions relative to poaching and predatory animals, the two major enemies of antelope perpetuation. The meager data at hand indicates a total number of more than 500 antelope survivors of the once myriad bands.

Coming now to the center of our antelope population. Over an area of roughly 1,000 square miles in Coconino county has been staged the greatest comeback of these animals within my knowledge. Generally defined, this area extends from Mormon Lake eastward to the Navajo county line, and from the northern stretches of Anderson Mesa, including the Aspen prairies under the Rim toward Winslow, south to and in some places beyond, the Mogollon Rim. A United States Biological Survey bulletin of about 1922 gives an estimate of 25 head of antelope ranging this territory at that time. This,

however, is undoubtedly low, since in the summer of 1920 I counted 75 head in different bunches on a day’s horseback inspection of ranges. By 1922 the stockmen, notably Lute Hart, of the Hay Lake Sheep company, in cooperation with the Biological Survey, had greatly reduced Lobo wolves (later entirely exterminated) coyotes and bobcats, as a matter of protecting their own interests, but with some thought of game as well. These predators were consistently kept under control, and poaching, although still

persisting, was brought to a minimum. Under these favorable conditions, and with the aid of a plentiful supply, this herd had probably increased to ten times its number in 1920. As many as 700 antelope have been counted in a flat of about two square miles below Chavez Pass, 30 miles southwest of Winslow, as they were yarded up by heavy snow which drove them off Anderson Mesa to the west. Their total number now reaches toward the 2,000 mark, judging from rather extensive horseback riding over the territory during the past winter, 1930-31, and such data as could be secured from local ranchers and representatives of the Forest Service.

A very peculiar thing about this herd is its adaptation to a range much higher in point of elevation and vegetative cover than is usually considered a good antelope habitat. While a few small bands still frequent the rolling prairie lands south of the Santa Fe tracks, the

Continued on page 13

Arizona's Pronghorn" continued from page 12

great bulk of the animals range from the lower limits of heavy juniper to the Mogollon Rim and beyond, in open to dense yellow pine and spruce timber. Whether seeking a hiding place from extensive cattle and sheep operations below or whether attracted to the more abundant food and water supply above, is not exactly clear. At all events, these animals are very much at home in this seemingly strange environment.

With this rapid increase in the so-called Anderson Mesa herd, naturally develops the possibility of eventual over-population. In July, 1930, the Forest Service, backed by a few Flagstaff sportsmen, recommended an open hunting season as a matter both of utilizing surplus animals and preventing further increase. However, the State Game Commission maintained the position that no open season should be declared until it was determined whether or not trapping could be done successfully to relieve the few congested areas and to restock the many depleted sections of the state. Accordingly, at a cost of some \$300, a hundred-foot circular trap was built three miles northeast of Chavez Pass, in the main pathway of upward and downward antelope migrations last December. Unfortunately, no heavy snow fell to bring the animals down off the rim in any considerable number after the trap was built and while a bunch of 23 head snoozed around the trap without becoming alarmed for two hours one day in February, none have as yet been caught. However, with plenty of salt inside and the two gates left open, it is believed a heavy snow next winter will make trapping possible on a rather large scale. Another smaller trap was also built by the Forest Service on the Mesa near Soldier Lake, the success of which will be watched with interest.

As to food habits, some will be surprised to learn that about one half of the forage taken by antelope on this area consists of juniper foliage. Although classed as grass eaters elsewhere, the amount of grass eaten here is less than 5% as shown by several stomach examinations made by the University of Arizona. However, various weeds are eaten up to 80% which brings the antelope into direct competition with cattle and sheep. The latter have been divided on the Coconino Forest by fencing, showing a wide contrast between the overgrazed cattle range and the adjoining allotments that have been only partially used the past several years. As to juniper, the antelope have browsed the upper limits of its range, perceptibly among older trees with sufficient crown that is out of reach to preclude serious damage. Juniper reproduction, the vital issue in regard to perpetuation, is endowed by nature with a nonpalatable waxy substance and prickly foliage that protect it from over browsing except to a slight degree at points of concentration, such

as water holes and salt licks. Grass is admittedly better than it was ten years ago, especially on the sheep ranges, so that with this condition, plus the available juniper browse in a belt three to six miles wide and 40-50 miles long there is no need for alarm for some years to come, either from the standpoint of vegetative damage, or of a threatening antelope die-off for lack of feed.

A few words regarding the physical makeup of the antelope itself. It has no close relative on the American continent; its body has a beautiful yellowish tinge with a conspicuous white circular spot around the rump, tail and thighs, bristles, coarse and almost continually shedding; it has no dew claws back of the hoofs as do other cloven footed quadrupeds; the gestation period is about seven months, the same as deer and twin kids are dropped as a rule. You often hear the statement that both the male and female have horns. This is true if you desire to class the small "nubbing" three-fourths to one inch long on nannies, as horns. In either case they project from just above the eyes, are black and, at least in the case of bucks, shed the outer shell and replace it yearly. The horns are composed of a substance resembling concentrated bristle.

Much has been said and more conjectured, concerning the great, speed of a running antelope. I remember one alleged authority claiming a rate of 57 miles per hour for a band that raced a passenger train in early days. Early last April, Deputy game Warden J.B. Edwards and myself raced three grown antelope by automobile for about a mile along the highway south of Winslow, preventing their crossing in front of us by maintaining a maximum speed of 37 miles per hour, and they were undoubtedly doing their "darndest."

But when we stop to consider that the antelope is capable of running long distances with no apparent fatigue and that the above speed is the equivalent of a mile in 1:37 plus, over rough ground, the fastest long distance race-horses come in for ridicule.

It is to be hoped this noble animal can be brought back to his proper place among the wild life of the state.

A warranted open season on antelope for a month or so each year is what we all look forward to and it is believed entirely possible with wise management of our base stock and necessarily the full cooperation of the populace as a whole with a good fish and game department.





SHORT SHOTS

WIN A SPORTSMAN'S WAREHOUSE \$50 GIFT CARD!

Have you signed up for our new email notification service? If not, do so now and you will be entered to win a Sportsman's Warehouse gift card. We often have items of urgency or interest come up in between our quarterly *Pronghorn* publications, and our Enews bulletin is a way for us to get the word out. If you would like to receive these periodic email updates, visit our website and sign up on our home page. Your email address will be used only for this purpose and will not be shared with any other organization or institution. You will also have the option to opt-out of the program at any time.

ARIZONA BIG GAME SUPER RAFFLE

The 3rd annual Big Game Super Raffle ticket sales have begun. This is your chance to win one of the coveted Commissioner's tags or a Swarovski optics package. Winners have the opportunity to hunt for 365 days nearly anywhere in the state.

Complete the ticket order form on the next page and send with your payment to the address listed. Your order must be **received** by **June 27, 2008**. Online sales should also be available in the coming weeks. The drawing for this raffle will take place in conjunction with AAF's annual fundraising banquet on July 19th. Visit the website for more information.

WWW.ARIZONABIGGAMESUPERRAFFLE.COM

FENCE BROCHURE

The AAF partnered with Audubon Arizona, United States Department of Agriculture, and the Natural Resources Conservation Service to produce an educational brochure on Wildlife Friendly Fencing. Many of the 40 acre "ranchettes" popping up in rural Arizona just so happen to be fencing out historical and vital pronghorn habitat. If we can educate these new (and old) landowners on the critical importance of wildlife and pronghorn friendly fencing, we'll have a win-win situation!

FIRE REAPS REWARDS!

Henry Provencio, a Wildlife Biologist with the US Forest Service, had some good news about the area that was burned in the Jacket Fire a couple of years ago. In late February of this year, a forest service volunteer counted a group of 60 pronghorn, 3 javelina and a few elk using the area. Before the fire, data collected from pronghorn fitted with gps collars suggested that pronghorn were totally avoiding this area. Now we have some solid evidence of at least seasonal pronghorn use by a decent sized group of animals.

Thanks to everyone who helped make the management decisions to use a "confine strategy" on the Jacket, Mormon and Lizard fires and all those who worked on BAER and on the line to steer these fires in a favorable direction. It just may be working out for these critters!

TEAMING WITH WILDLIFE

Thanks to the support of Teaming with Wildlife members in Arizona and around the country, during the latter part of 2007, Congress passed an "omnibus" appropriations bill that includes \$73.8 million for State Wildlife Grants in fiscal year 2008. In the current budget climate, an increase of \$6.3 million is a considerable victory, and it would not have been possible without your calls, e-mails and personal visits to the Hill. In the end, Congress had to cut \$22 billion from their initial proposals for non-military discretionary spending, and State Wildlife Grants would have certainly been on the chopping block.

Arizona's appropriation for 2008 is \$1,433,081, which represents an increase of approximately \$22,500 over 2007. For more information visit www.teaming.com

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ARIZONA BIG GAME SUPER RAFFLE

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SPORTSMAN'S CALENDAR OF UPCOMING EVENTS!

<i>WHAT?</i>	<i>WHEN?</i>	<i>WHERE?</i>
The Arizona Antelope Foundation	April 14 6:30 PM	The Phoenix Zoo
Board Meetings	May 12 6:30 PM	455 N. Galvin Parkway
	June 9 6:30 PM	
AAF Work Projects	May 17-18	Anderson Mesa
	July 26-27	White Mountains
	October 18-19	Unit 21
The Wildlife Conservation Council	April 22 6:30 PM	AZ Game & Fish Department
Board Meetings	May 27 6:30 PM	5000 W. Carefree Highway
	June 24 6:30 PM	
AAF Hunter Clinic	June 17	Sportsman's Warehouse I-17
AAF Banquet	July 19	El Zaribah Shrine
AWF Patti Ho Memorial Estate Fundraiser	April 26	AZ Game & Fish Headquarters

Would you like the Pronghorn via email....let us know! Or if you have an upcoming event, send us the information at info@azantelope.org.