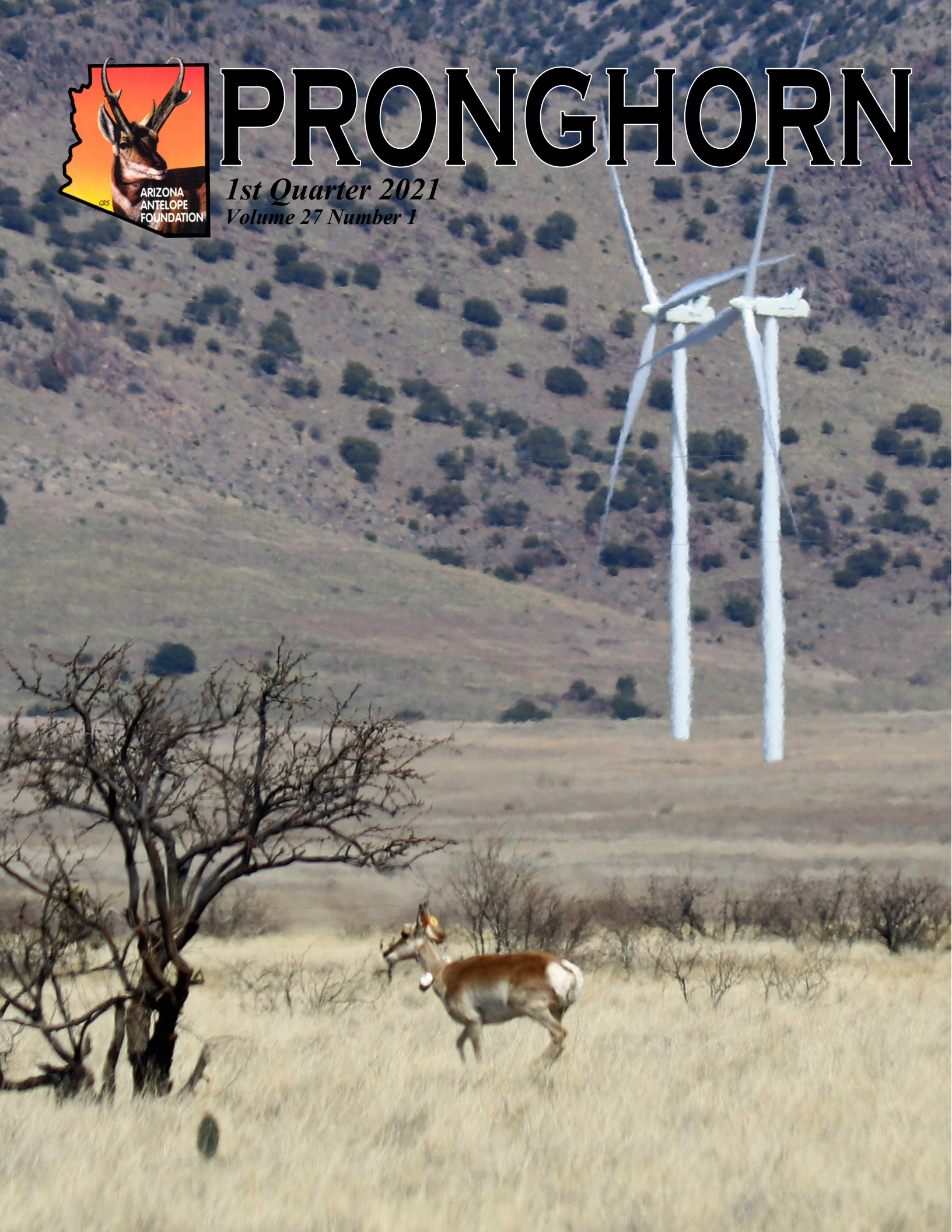




PRONGHORN

1st Quarter 2021
Volume 27 Number 1



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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

Collared pronghorn doe photographed during Bonita flat survey was released January 2019 from Prescott Valley, Arizona. Photo credit Betty Dickens.

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 1191, Mesa AZ 85211 or by email at info@azantelope.org.

PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

Welcome to the first quarter Pronghorn. Now that the covid scare is getting behind us we will be able to look at getting back to the business of projects. We recently held a Sweepstakes with a dollar for dollar match going toward water for Sonoran Antelope. We will be coordinating with Region 4 John Hurvert and Mike Daehler of the BLM for best use.

Our first special governor's tag went for \$80,000 at the Wild Sheep Auction this year, Thank You Wild Sheep and Albert Seeno, the successful bidder. The HPC should be well served with this funding; we have no lack of projects to fund. Our next tag will be auctioned at the Arizona Sheep banquet May 1. Our most recent membership numbers 284 regular, 93 life. We are going for a regular membership of 300 as a goal for this year, so if you know anyone who is thinking about it or someone who is interested, talk to them and let us see if we can get them on board.

This past weekend April 9-11 we were able to get back into the field for a fence removal project. Four miles of interior fence was removed. This was a sheep fence (Woven) which completely halts any Antelope movement under the structure. This was also our first, although delayed, 18A project. As a recap we along with other critter groups met with Game and Fish, HPC, and Region 3. The purpose of the meeting was the 18A Habitat Restoration Project. We will be spending part of our project season for the next 5 years in unit 18A. The project is multi pronged: modification or removal of fence allowing freer movement of wildlife, removal or thinning of invasive juniper/Pinyon, and permanent water sources.

Men are men of their time with the knowledge of their time. The start of grazing and fire suppression has led to the landscape changing. Former grasslands and savannas are experiencing juniper encroachment reducing or breaking up these areas. The unit has seen good forage grasses, forbs, and shrubs replaced by invasive and woody species reducing quality food sources. The unit is one that is arid, combine this with droughts with no open waters (rivers, streams) and moisture becomes another limiting factor. So water will be one other aspect of the restoration project, Region 3 has identified a need for 10 new and redeveloped waters. Aside from Game and Fish the main partners at this time in this effort are Arizona Antelope, Arizona Deer, and the local land owners and Ranch-



ers. Funding for this project will come from various sources as cash, grants, and in kind labor. Game and Fish has also been able to secure 2.8 million from the USDA National Resources Conservation Service. There is a planned expenditure of 5 million over 5 years. For all of us in the AAF this is every bit what our grant is in Southeastern Arizona and we hope there is the same success.

Well, it's spring going into summer. I hope your fishing and turkey hunting goes well, hope to see you all this summer project season.

Take care.

Ken

"LIBERTAS AD VAGOR"....

FREEDOM TO ROAM

Bonita-Allen Flat 1st Annual AAF-AGFD Winter Pronghorn Surveys



Nineteen Arizona Antelope Foundation (AAF) volunteers led by Tucson Regional Game Specialist Rana Tucker and AAF SE Arizona Field Manager John Millican conducted its first annual “winter pronghorn survey” on February 27/28. The Bonita and Allen Flat pronghorn herd zones are located north and northwest of Willcox in game management unit 32. Note the detailed National Fish and Wildlife Foundation (NFWF) grant information on the Bonita Herd Zone included in this issue of the Pronghorn on pages 5-14.

Results had everyone smiling with record population numbers recorded in both herd zones. A total of 219 pronghorn were recorded in the Bonita herd zone of 268,000 acres, previous survey high was 162 in 2019. A total of 74 pronghorn were recorded in the Allen Flat herd zone of 68,000 acres, previous survey high was 70 in 2019. Both of these herd zones received extensive fence/habitat/water/ modification and population supplements by the AAF and AGFD from 2010-2019 funded in part by the NFWF and these population increases are very gratifying.

This is the first of what will become an annual winter survey of these 2-subpopulations to provide long-term population survival and distribution data. Our annual July Sonoita Plains survey in game management units 34/35AB provide population trends, buck to doe ratios and fawn survival percentages. Our 9th summer survey of the Sonoita Plains Herd Zone is scheduled for July 17th.





Thanks go out to the following team of surveyors:

Ron Day, TNC Mule Shoe Manager

John Millican, AAF SE Az Field Manager

Rana Tucker, Arizona Game & Fish, Tucson Game Specialist

AAF Board members Ken Meadors, Jamie Watkins, Glen Dickens, Kara Jensen, Robert Velasco, Terry Schupp, Dave Cagle, Steve Tritz & Connie Taylor

Past Board members Al Sue, Dave Cruce, Dave Laird, Bill Keebler & Joe-Bill Pickrell

AAF members Deana Watkins, Betty Dickens, Darrell Tersey & Warren Adams

NATIONAL FISH & WILDLIFE GRANT REPORT

**“SOUTHEASTERN ARIZONA GRASSLANDS PRONGHORN INITIATIVE”
2010-2019**

BONITA HERD ZONE 268,728-Acres Excerpts from original zone report

OVERVIEW

The Bonita herd zone, located in the northern Sulfur Springs Valley, is considered historic pronghorn habitat and was absent of pronghorn by 1930. Seventy pronghorn, from the AGFD Raymond Ranch Antelope Refuge east of Flagstaff, were reintroduced by the AGFD in the Bonita herd zone on six occasions, from 1943 to 1945. The herd became well established by 1952 when 117 animals were observed. In 1954, a survey recorded 150 animals. Improving genetic diversity was deemed desirable for this herd zone and was addressed in January 2019 with two supplemental pronghorn releases.

Connectivity was also identified as a significant issue when the grant began in 2012. Connectivity was addressed from 2012 to 2019 with 12 separate fence projects in the core pronghorn use areas. These projects modified and/or replaced 33 miles of fence, resulting in increasing the connectivity by 56,574 total acres (see Map #1, page 10). Although water distribution and security was considered excellent, the HPC funded 3 water distribution projects to fortify this resource: one in 2014 in the extreme north end of the valley, 2016 southeast of Bonita, and the other in 2017 in the central valley.

Mesquite encroachment was considered extreme in 2010 when the Bonita Grasslands Restoration Project was established. Led by the NRCS and the AGFD, and working closely with local ranch owners, its goal was to improve/grub 10,000 acres in 5 years. With a focus on improving grasslands, AAF utilized both NFWF 8-year grant and AGFD HPC funds on 7 different grassland restoration projects, totaling 5,235 acres (see Map #2, page 11). The goal of improving 10,000 acres was achieved by 2016 and revised up to 20,000 acres. By 2019, a minimum of 15,000 acres of grassland had been restored and are being used by resident and reintroduced pronghorn. Second growth mesquite is a continuing long-term grassland maintenance and preservation threat, especially when enhanced by favorable wet cycle years. Local land-owners prefer using safe herbicides rather than fire treatment on 5-10-year-old second growth mesquite.

FENCE/WATER PROJECTS (see Map #1, Page 10 & Volunteer Photos, Page 13)

September 21, 2013 - O Bar O-Homack Ranch Fence Roll-up and Removal

An AAF volunteer fence project was completed by 37 volunteers on the O Bar O-Homack Ranch in the northwestern portion of the Bonita plains. This accomplished a key portion of the connectivity need in this zone. A total of 20 miles of barbed wire was rolled and removed on 3.5 miles of re-built, 4-strand fence. This area is slated for additional mesquite grubbing in 2014-15 and will improve pronghorn connectivity on **16,150 acres**.

November 25, 2014 - 76 Ranch East Side Water Development

A major water storage, pipeline, and ground level trough project was completed by the 76 Ranch. It was funded with \$32K of HPC dollars and \$40K by the landowner. The project resulted in 24 separate secure water points on **12,400 acres** for livestock and wildlife. At least 50% of these water points are located in pronghorn habitat.

September 19-20, 2015 - High Creek Road ROW Fence Modification and Fence Removal

An AAF volunteer fence project was completed by 30 volunteers in the northwest portion of the Bonita plains, 14 miles west of Bonita. The project weekend had two elements: fence modification and fence removal. First, the modification of 2 miles of existing right-of-way fencing along High Creek Road on the north side, and 1.5 on the south, resulted in **2,560 acres** of pronghorn habitat connectivity. Second, removal and roll up of one mile of old fence line wire adjacent to a new wildlife-friendly fence addressed safety issues for both mule deer and pronghorn.

June 15, 2016 - Bonita Grassland KJ Ranch Pasture Fence Removal/Rebuild

Two and a half miles of fence line were replaced on a key pronghorn zone by the KJ Ranch. Materials, in the amount of \$7.9K, were paid for by the NFWF 8-year grant and all labor for the removal and reconstruction were paid for by the KJ ranch owner at the cost of \$15.4K. This project improved permeability of the area for resident pronghorn and connectivity to 2 key pastures for pronghorn. This project increased pronghorn connectivity acres by 2,600 acres.

May 21, 2017 - M Triangle Ranch Water Development

A year-around water source from an existing solar well was piped 1 mile underground to supply a 3,000-gallon storage tank. This established a permanent drinker in key pronghorn habitat. It was funded by \$6K of HPC dollars and \$21K by the landowner.

July 25, 2016 – Bonita Home Place Water Development

The KJ Ranch installed a solar pump system in an existing cased well along with installing a 5,000-gallon low profile poly storage tank. Water is pumped from the well through underground plumbing to two different water troughs. The two additional waters have developed yearlong access by wildlife to an available water source. It was funded with \$15.6K of HPC dollars and \$13K by the landowner.

September 24, 2016 - Fence Modification South of the High Creek Road

An AAF volunteer fence project was completed by 52 volunteers in the northwest portion of Game Management Unit 32, 14 miles west of Bonita. This project involved modifying 3.5 miles of existing boundary and interior fencing south of the High Creek Road. The majority of the work occurred with no vehicle access and required considerable hiking and hauling of materials, as well as clearing fences of dried tumbleweeds. This project added **4,800 acres** of pronghorn habitat connectivity.

January 15, 2017 - Bonita Grassland KJ Ranch Drag Pasture Fence Rebuild

Two and a half miles of fence line was replaced on a key pronghorn zone by the KJ Ranch in the A Drag Pasture. Materials, in the amount of \$10K, were paid for by the NFWF 8-year grant. All labor for the removal and reconstruction was paid for by the KJ ranch owner at the cost of \$13.2K. In addition to this, the rancher continued to modify fence at his own expense on 1.5 miles in order to ensure permeability around the boundary of the entire pasture. This project improved permeability of the area by **2,400 acres** and connected 2 key pastures for pronghorn.

June 9, 2017 - Bonita Grassland KJ Ranch Pasture Fence Rebuild

One mile of fence line was replaced on a key pronghorn zone by the KJ Ranch. Materials, in the amount of \$4K, were paid for by the NFWF 8-year grant, and all labor for the removal and reconstruction were paid for by the KJ ranch owner at the cost of \$7.7K. This project improved permeability of the area by **1,800 acres**. In addition to this rebuild the rancher realigned and rebuilt an additional .75-mile along the same fence line and made it permeable to pronghorn. He also modified 1 mile of ROW fence (0.5 on each side) along the adjacent road.

September 30, 2017 - Fence Modification North of the High Creek Road

An AAF volunteer fence project was completed by 41 volunteers and AGFD personnel in the northeast end of Game Management Unit 32 near Bonita. Modified was 2.6 miles of existing boundary fence between the KJ and Sierra Bonita Ranches north of the High Creek Road. This project increased pronghorn connectivity acres by **6,000 acres**.

PRONGHORN POPULATION TRANSPLANTS, SURVEYS, & ENHANCEMENTS

November 14, 2018 - Glassford Hill-Prescott Valley Capture Fence Construction Project

Forty-four individuals including AGFD personnel, AAF Board members, and other volunteers met in Prescott Valley, Arizona for this effort. The group volunteered 483 hours and drove 5,631 miles in support of this project as in-kind contributions to match the grant. The group constructed the capture fence wings of a pronghorn trap. The trap is to be used to capture 50 urbanized pronghorn in January, 2019. A portion of the captured pronghorn will be translocated to three areas north and northwest of Willcox, Arizona to bolster the resident populations with additional numbers and genetic diversity. Each of those three release sites will have

5 pronghorn that are radio-collared to provide seasonal habitat use information for 24 months post-release. The data will be uploaded at least 4 times daily and will be periodically analyzed by the project's GIS specialist. The objective is to learn where pronghorn are breeding and fawning, and to identify the key zones they utilize for foraging in the winter and summer months. Two of the release sites are to be in the Bonita herd zone. Prior to this release, the last time pronghorn were reintroduced to Bonita area was in the 1940s.

January 22-24, 2019 - Glassford Hill-Prescott Valley Pronghorn Capture and Successful Transport to Southeastern Arizona Release Sites

On the first two days of this project, AAF Board members, 42 AGFD employees, and 28 additional volunteers constructed the final corral trap to capture pronghorn from the heavily urbanized Glassford Hill area in Prescott Valley. These two trap building days followed the previous November's construction of the capture fence wings, which was accomplished by 44 AGFD personnel and volunteers. The purpose of this capture project was two-fold:

- 1) "Rescue" a subpopulation of 75 pronghorn that had become surrounded by 360 degrees of subdivisions and major highways. The herd had decreased in population from 100 to 75 animals in just one year due largely to vehicle collisions; and
- 2) Release the captured animals into five pronghorn sub-populations in southeastern Arizona to bolster individual herd numbers and genetic diversity. Three of the releases will be to the north, east, and west of Willcox, one release will be in the San Bernardino Valley northeast of Douglas, and one release will occur 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 gathered at 7AM in a large parking lot in the center of Prescott Valley. Carpools were formed to travel to an area near the capture site. After arriving, participants 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 (alleys) with fence construction materials. Their job was to build a temporary woven wire fence in the alleyway after pronghorn had passed that location. The other two teams were stationed on both sides of the capture alley behind the ditches, hiding in the nearby brush to become "drivers".

Everyone 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, everyone thought "this is it!" only to be disappointed when the chopper noise faded away. Finally on the 3rd or so pass, everything clicked and 55 pronghorn headed into the wing trap and down the alley. On command, everyone exited and quickly assumed their positions. 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 started back up the alley, attempting to escape. As planned, they were 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's "calming down period," there were several hours of processing the pronghorn including individually classifying, assessing, and ear tagging 45 animals. This included 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. 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 spent the night in Benson and Willcox for releases the next morning at Bonita and the Monk Ranch as well as Allen Flat. That same morning, four mature pregnant does without collars were released in the center of the San Bernardino Valley by Douglas area Wildlife Manager, Mike Richins.

We were fortunate to be at two of the releases, the first at Allen Flat and the second at Monk Ranch as depicted by photos of two of the release teams. Yes, those are very big, relieved, and happy smiles by all! 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 will be uploaded at least 4 times daily and will be periodically analyzed by the project's GIS game specialist. The focus will be on learning where resident pronghorn are breeding and fawning, and the key zones they utilize seasonally for foraging. The first—and last—time pronghorn were reintroduced into this herd was in 1944 and 1945, when a total of 46 pronghorn from the Anderson Mesa were released in the area.

Post-release monitoring of mortalities showed that one mature doe died in transport and one buck and one collared doe at the Bonita release site died within 72 hours after being released, most likely of capture myopathy. This percentage of transplant mortality is well within acceptable biological limits. The good news is that all the other pronghorn released with collared animals have been observed upright and healthy, and have mixed in with groups of resident pronghorn. As demonstrated in the two maps accompanying this report, all translocated pronghorn are very busy exploring the boundaries of what is considered to be the available pronghorn habitat, and in some cases, beyond. In an extreme case, as this article was originally going to press on April 2, 2019, a mature buck, released in the Allen Flat area northwest of Willcox, started a 70-mile “walk about” on Saint Patrick's Day. He is now located on the north side of the Gila River northeast of Safford, likely enroute to the Eagle Creek area. He is certainly puzzling a number of 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”.

All volunteer work hours and mileage contributed have been used as an in-kind financial match for the 8-year, Southeastern Arizona Pronghorn Enhancement Project, funded by the NFWF and the AGFD Habitat Partnership program under the grant entitled “*Southern Arizona Grasslands Pronghorn Initiative.*” This successful capture and the attendant releases had been planned for many years as part of the grant's population augmentation objectives. These releases represent a major capstone, supplementing existing pronghorn sub-populations in areas where 10 years were spent in habitat improvement efforts including improving waters, removing mesquite, and removing, replacing, or modifying over 30 miles of fence.

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

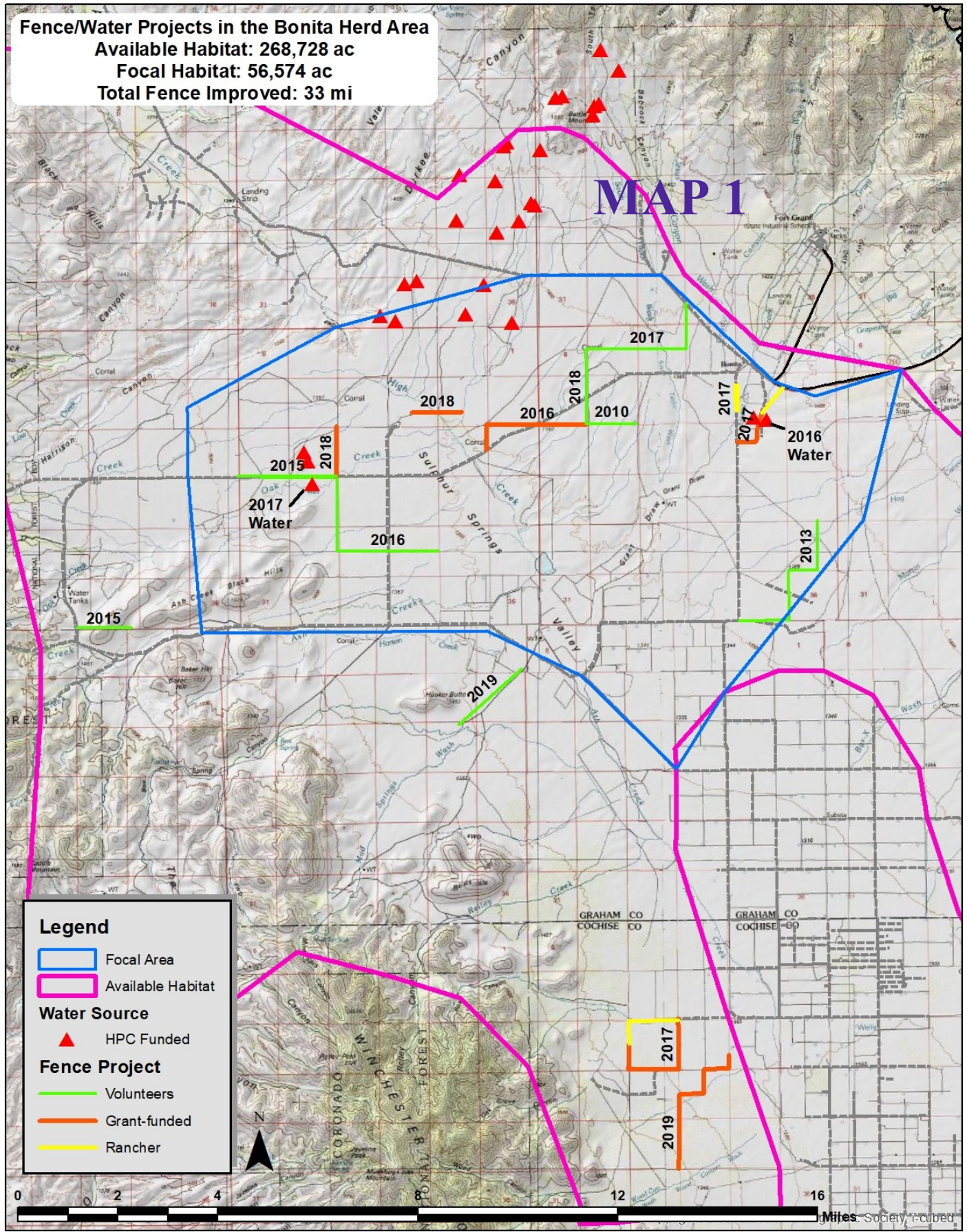
SUMMARY

As noted above in January, 2019, 23 pronghorn captured near Prescott Valley, Arizona were released at two sites in the Bonita grasslands complex; 12 near Bonita and 11 on the Monk Ranch, 10 miles southeast of Bonita. This included 8 bucks and 15 does of which 5 were radio collared in each of the two groups. The 10 radio collared pronghorn have explored all of the current occupied pronghorn habitat and have integrated themselves into the remnant population.

Survey data for the last 10 years have shown a fairly resilient population number but well below the minimum grant population objective of 125 individuals for most years. The August, 2019 aerial survey was 162, a record high number of survey observations since 2009 (see Map #3, page 12). Following approved scientific protocols, this herd zone received seasonal pronghorn fawning enhancement coyote treatment in 2016, 2017, and 2018. The long-term outlook for this herd zone is now excellent with improved and expanded grassland habitat, all of which is permeable and pronghorn friendly.

Fence/Water Projects in the Bonita Herd Area
Available Habitat: 268,728 ac
Focal Habitat: 56,574 ac
Total Fence Improved: 33 mi

MAP 1



Legend

- Focal Area
- Available Habitat
- Water Source**
- ▲ HPC Funded
- Fence Project**
- Volunteers
- Grant-funded
- Rancher

Mesquite Removal Projects in the Bonita Herd Area

Total Available Habitat: 268,728 ac
Core Habitat: 56,574 ac

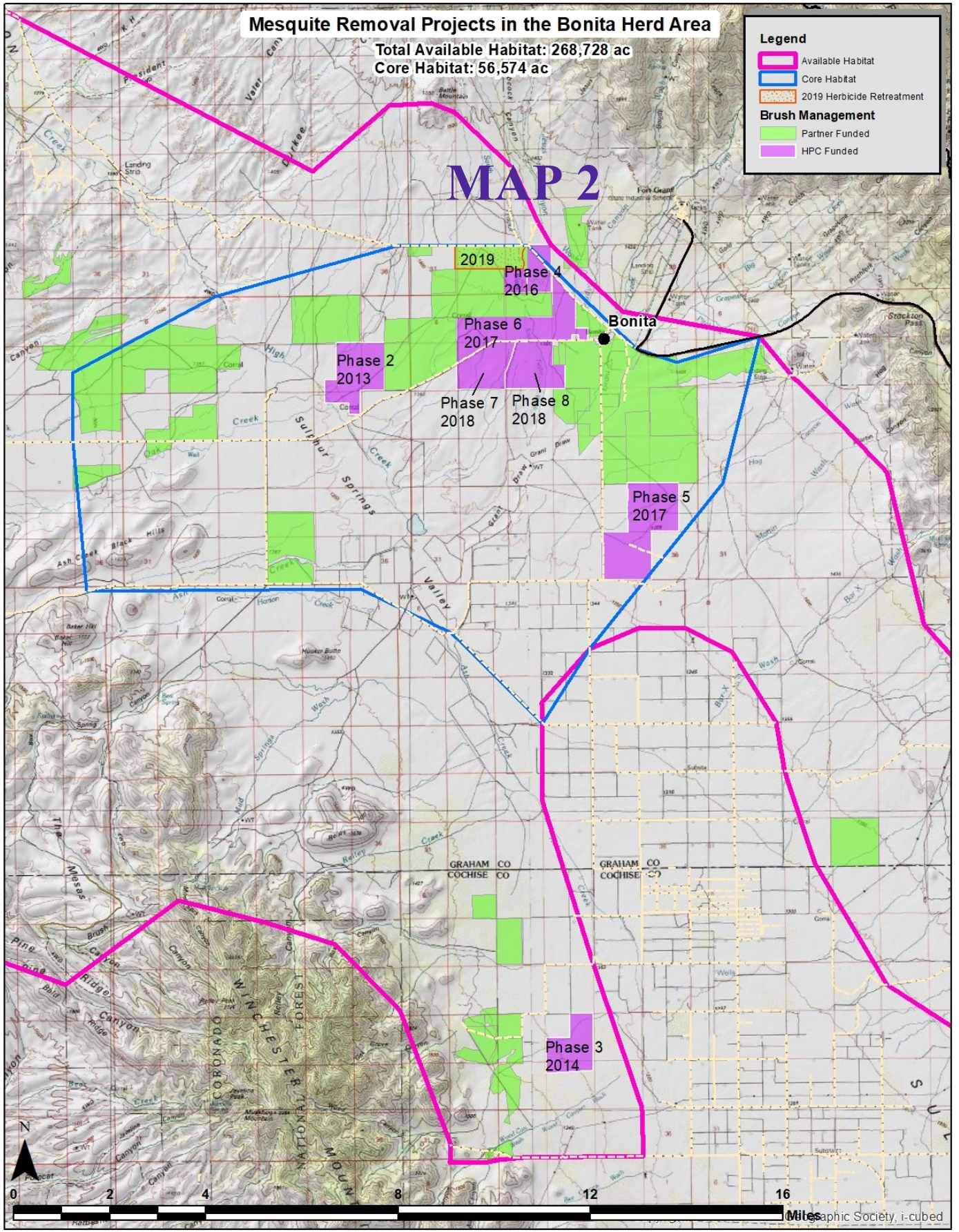
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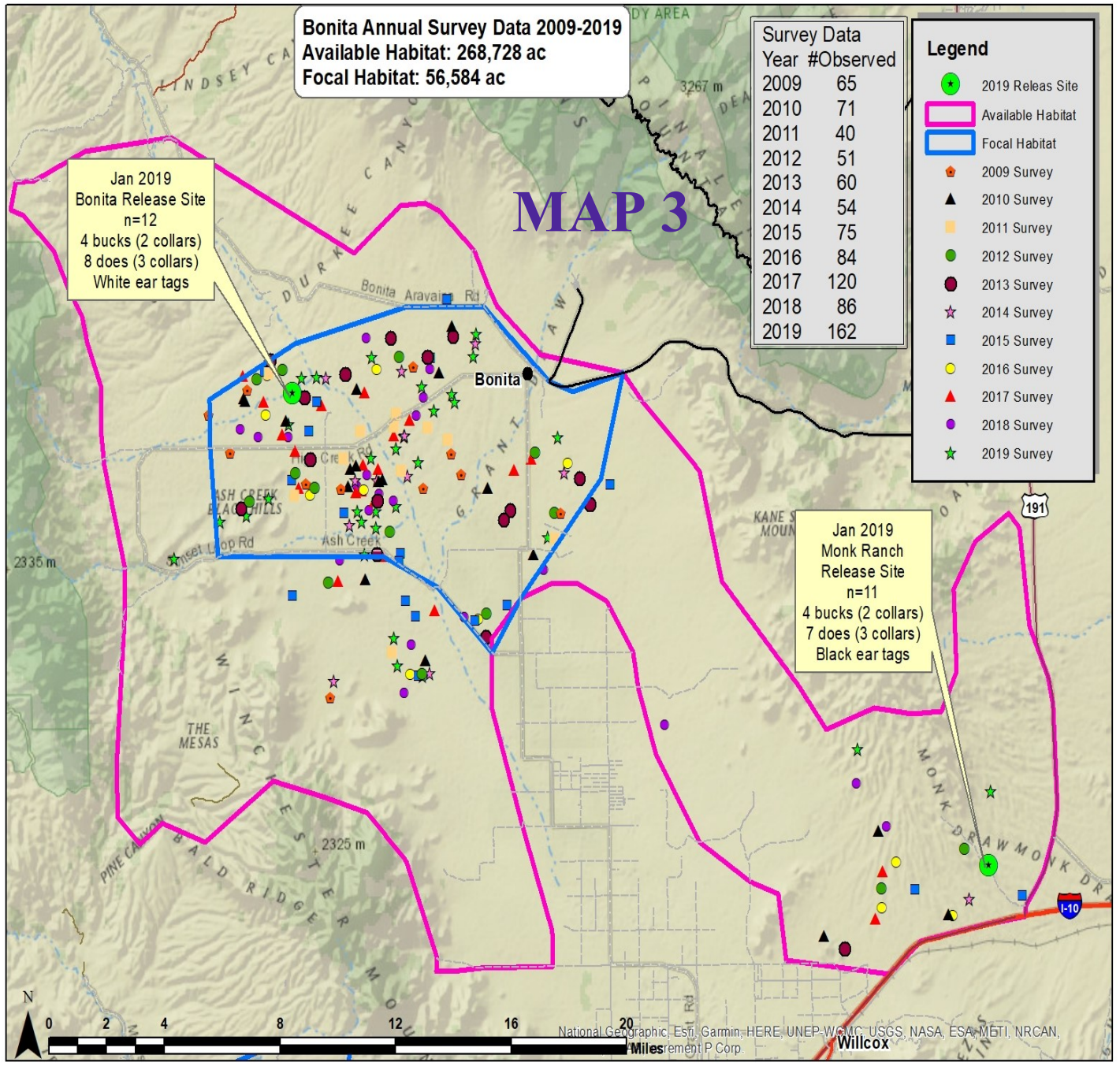
- Available Habitat
- Core Habitat
- 2019 Herbicide Retreatment

Brush Management

- Partner Funded
- HPC Funded

MAP 2







BONITA VOLUNTEERS

2013-2018







SONORAN PRONGHORN UPDATE



FIGURES AND PHOTOS BY JILL BRIGHT, AZ GAME & FISH
FEBRUARY–MARCH 2021

Captive Breeding: Cabeza Pen

The pronghorn are doing well and adjusting after the captures. Two injured does in the pen are showing their injuries more now that they are adding weight with pregnancy. Tan doe in north who is 13 years old, appears a bit thin, and is being closely monitored.

Usually the bucks and the yearling does will form a larger group and move around the pen together. The adult does have been staying apart from the rest of the animals. The first fawns of the year were observed in north herd on March 14; fawns were observed in south the next day. So far, there are 12 fawns in north and 13 in south. One doe appears to have triplets. The pen biologists observed a pair of Harris hawks feeding on a very young fawn after likely killing it. They also found another small fawn that appeared to be injured; he had some puncture wounds, had trouble breathing and seemed unable to move. They suspect a fox may have injured it. That fawn was gone from the location the next day with no signs of scavenging, being dragged away or any other sign to indicate what eventually happened to him although he's assumed to have died.

The pen got about 0.39 inches of rain March 13 – 14, and is still in fairly good condition. The pen was irrigated for about 21 hours in February in an effort to maintain the greenery in the pen after the January rainfall. The biologists were busy cleaning and refilling the waters in the pen, repairing broken irrigation pipe, and maintaining and reviewing game cameras around the pen, and at numerous sites in Childs Valley and in the Saucedo sub-unit. They spent time investigating the mortalities in the Saucedo subunit and writing mortality reports.

The biologists are also working on building a trap section in the north half of the pen that we can open to the outside in an attempt to lure a wild buck into the pen for breeding purposes. We are hoping that this method of passive trapping will be successful, and eliminate the risks to pronghorn and people related to net-gunning wild pronghorn for the pen. Every year, several wild male pronghorn return to the pen during breeding season, and we are hopeful we can lure one in.

NORTH HALF		SOUTH HALF	
Adult Females	11	Adult Females	11
Yearling Females (<i>b</i> 2020)	8	Yearling Females (<i>b</i> 2020)	9
Adult Males	3	Adult Males	6
Yearling Males (<i>b</i> 2020)	7	Yearling Males (<i>b</i> 2020)	8
Fawns (<i>b</i> 2021)	12	Fawns (<i>b</i> 2021)	13
TOTAL	41	TOTAL	47
Total Pen	88		

Kofa Pen

The pronghorn in the Kofa pen are doing well. The 11-year old doe with the hip/leg issue is managing and her limp has stayed about the same, but she seems to have lost some weight and is often hard to locate. The first fawns were seen in Kofa pen on March 10, and there are 10 documented so far. Kofa personnel are spending more time observing the pronghorn now that fawns are present; Kofa pen is much more difficult to observe the pronghorn in than Cabeza due to a lack of a high viewpoint. They have also been working on repairing the pen drinker, as well as exploring and building a new fencing technique in the big washes designed to allow water and debris to pass through without destroying large sections of the pen. A similar design has worked well at the Cabeza pen. We continue to have issues with the solar well pump malfunctioning so no irrigation took place. There was no rain at Kofa pen in February or March, although there was some scattered rains on Kofa Refuge in March

Adult Females	11
Yearling Females (<i>b</i> 2020)	8
Adult Males	5
Yearling Males (<i>b</i> 2020)	7
Fawns (<i>b</i> 2021)	10
TOTAL	41

Wild Pronghorn Cabeza/ORPI/BMGR Herd: Parts of this area got rain in March which should improve forage conditions. The three bucks released near the pen continue to often be in the vicinity of the pen with several other wild pronghorn. There was a mortality of a 4-year old doe released in ORPI in December 2020 on February 17, cause is unknown.

Wild Pronghorn Kofa Herd: The Kofa range is in fair to patchy good condition with some areas of the Palomas Plains looking very good. Pronghorn use of the water and alfalfa south of the pen has decreased this month, as it has greened up in other areas. Cameras have recorded 10 different bucks as well as 3 does, but they generally come less often and in smaller groups. Three of these bucks were also recorded at Clancy Water. The area around Clancy Tank got 0.2 inches of rain in March.

There was a mortality of a 4-year old doe, released in February 2020, on February 11, 2021. She had been killed by coyotes in the Palomas Plains area. On a recent telemetry flight of the Palomas Plains, we observed pronghorn near and north of the holding pen, one doe to the east north of Signal Peak (Gila Bend Mountains) by herself, and a small group of 4 animals was to the north east near the Eagle Tail mountains.

Wild Pronghorn Saucedo Herd: Habitat in the Saucedo sub-unit is also in fair to good condition. However, there have been 9 mortalities in this herd, mostly of animals released this year. Five females from this year's release were found dead. Two of these were GPS collars and were investigated soon after the signal and were attributed to coyote predation. The other 3 had VHF collars and had been dead long enough that the biologists were unable to determine for sure what the cause of death was. Two 2-year old males from this year's release, a 3-year old male from 2019 release, and a 7-year old male released in 2015 were killed by mountain lions. We have documented a mother with two yearling mountain lions in the area. We made several attempts to snare the lions near the kills in order to put radio collars on, but were unsuccessful.

Water Projects: The Cabeza pen biologists determined that rains in January had caused the Knucklehead drinker to float, breaking the PVC adapter between the tanks and trough. We made a two-day effort to dig up the adapter, replace it, reset and anchor the trough. We then pumped about 10,000 gallons of water into the system using 5 water buffalos, 0.6 miles of fire hose and repeated trips to the Cabeza well. Hopefully the system will retain water through the summer. We also conducted a two-day water hauling adventure to Uken and Thompson tanks on STAC Range within the Air Force Gunnery Range. We were able to fill Uken, as well as Thompson Tank after getting several of our vehicles stuck in deep sand. We had planned to fill Halliwell as well, but ran out of time due to the delays. Halliwell Tank still has water available and we will make a trip to fill it soon.

Meet our newest appointed AAF Board member Jamie Watkins

Jamie's story;



I first learned about the Arizona Antelope Foundation about 10 years ago at the Arizona Game & Fish Department annual Outdoor Expo at Ben Avery Shooting Range, a short drive from my home in Phoenix. I was pretty much an addict of Wild America on PBS growing up and dreamed of a job outdoors. I grew up in California, yet Arizona antelope have been one of my favorite animals since I was a kid as they were the first wildlife I'd seen other than the backyard birds and lizards from my suburban childhood. I recall spotting them when visiting my grandparents in Prescott Valley around 30 years ago and have fond memories of these beautiful animals. When I learned about the Arizona Antelope Foundation and their mission to improve Arizona's antelope habitat, I was inspired to volunteer. I always dreamed of a job outdoors and started to pursue a higher education in biological sciences, but life changed course and my education and career ended up going a different direction and I landed instead with a degree in the Management of Information Systems and jobs fitting that degree.

Fast forward 10 years... I'm still volunteering and now both my kids are pursuing their higher education into environmental sciences and forestry. I, myself, work fulltime as a Senior Team Lead within Aetna's Medicaid business which includes a blend of business and technical know-how. Volunteering with the Arizona Antelope Foundation still allows me for a chance to work outdoors and improve habitat. Joining the board seemed like the next step to become more involved, educated in landscape management, and include my input into the decision making process. I am looking forward to learning behind-the-scenes aspects and share my experiences and input with the group.

29th Annual Hunter's Clinic - Online Webinar

June 12, 2021 from noon, ends at 4:00pm
Complimentary for members and non-members,
Register at AZantelope.org

Topics include:
Proper field care
How to use optics
Spot & stalk tactics
Archery & rifle hunting tactics
How to field judge your antelope
How to photo document your hunt Buck or doe (both can have horns!)
Speak with the Wildlife Manger in your unit!



MEMBERSHIP

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53. Neal Brown, Phoenix
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77. Billie Bechtel, Show Low
78. Betty Dickens, Tucson
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- | | | |
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| Joelle Buffa, Sierra Vista | Roger Joos, Glendale | Dan Priest, Phoenix |
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- | | | |
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WELCOME TO NEW MEMBERS

- | | | |
|------------------------------------|------------------------------|------------------------------|
| Troy Barnett, Sierra Vista | Trace Hay, Peoria | Kevin McKnight, Waddell |
| Franklin Armor, Clay Springs | Edward Jankowski, Mancos, CO | John O'Brien, Scottsdale |
| Keith Berger, Sun City West | Harold Lee, Glendale | James Petersen, Mesa |
| Gerald Brack, Yuma | Ryan Lloyd, Tucson | Eric Shipp, Phoenix |
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Ken & Kathy Cook AAF's Newest Life Members

The Arizona Antelope Foundation welcomes our two newest Life Members, Ken and Kathy Cook. with numbers 92 and 93. Long-time family members and regulars at the majority of our field fence projects the Cook's are Arizona natives, retired, and reside in Casa Grande. They spend the bulk of their retirement in their Toyota 4-wheel drive pickup hunting and exploring the backroads, canyons, and deserts of Arizona.

GREETINGS!



Be sure to check out the information on the Annual Hunter's Clinic on page 17. Last year was a successful interpretation of what has been an in-person event all these years. Improvise, adapt, overcome! People who watched this last year were very complimentary on the amount and quality of information. We believe you will find the info this year a valuable education .

*It is complimentary to members and non-members, so tell your friends. They will also have the opportunity to sign up as a member if they'd like to be a part of AAF at a 50% discount.
Best to you, Lenée*

