



PRONGHORN

1st Quarter 2023
Volume 29 Number 1



ARIZONA ANTELOPE FOUNDATION, INC.

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AAF Mission Statement:

The Arizona Antelope Foundation is an organization dedicated to the welfare of pronghorn antelope. The Foundation's Mission is to actively seek to increase pronghorn populations in Arizona through habitat improvements, habitat acquisition, the translocation of animals to historic range, and public comment on activities affecting pronghorn and their habitat.



ON OUR COVER

Wildlife Manager Noah Silva and student volunteer Shelby Moore preparing a recently collared Game Management Unit 30A Pronghorn doe for transfer to the transport trailer with a winter snow storm advancing rapidly from the west.

Photo credit Betty Dickens

Pronghorn is a quarterly magazine 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

Let me start this first issue of the 2023 Pronghorn by introducing myself. I am Terry Schupp and I'm the 2023 Arizona Antelope Foundation (AAF) President. I have been a life member since 2000 and a member of the Board of Directors since 2012. Before becoming the President, I served as the Treasurer for five years.

I became active in the AAF a couple of years after I drew my first antelope tag. Some of you might be jealous or envious but I moved to Arizona in 1984 and drew my first tag in 2000. It only took 16 years of applying. I then drew my second tag in 2020, only twenty years later.

Seriously though, becoming active with AAF was easy to do. After reading the Pronghorn for a few years it seemed something I could grab hold of and enjoy all the while knowing I was making a difference. Which brings me to the meat of my first President's message. Volunteerism. This includes becoming a member, participating in the habitat projects done throughout the year and becoming part of the AAF leadership when there is a vacancy on the Board.

The AAF hovers around 186 annual members with 114 Life Members for a total of 300 members. While each and every one of them is appreciated, the AAF needs to grow if we want to continue the Mission. There is a need for more members to continue to maintain and grow. An important component of Membership dues is the portion that goes to completing antelope habitat projects.

The AAF averages five habitat improvement projects a year which are supported by membership dues and raffles of various types. I spend time in the field with some of the most passionate and hard-working volunteers with whom one could ever hope to be involved. One can really get a sense of gratification knowing that they are making a difference in the preservation of the wild. There is also a great feeling of accomplishment in seeing what you and the other volunteers have contributed to the antelope's habitat. At the end of a hard day's work, there is nothing better than enjoying a fine meal around the campfire with new and old friends.



The leadership group is a diverse and hard-working group of people. From the Executive committee to the Board Members, each brings something to the table from specific skills and habitat knowledge to new ideas for raising funds for projects. As we grow as an organization, it is important that we bring in new people to keep the AAF moving forward.

So, if you are reading this Pronghorn and are not a member, please consider signing up. If you are a member, thank you. Please consider moving into a role on the leadership group. Help us get word out about AAF by recruiting family members or friends to join. And lastly, come join us on our weekend projects and bring a friend.

Thank you, Terry

"LIBERTAS AD VAGOR"....

FREEDOM TO ROAM

VEKOL VALLEY-BUREAU OF LAND MANAGEMENT FENCE REMOVAL PROJECT FOR SONORAN PRONGHORN

BY DAVE CAGLE, AAF SECRETARY

On Saturday March 18, 2023 we conducted another fence removal project in the Vekol Valley approximately 30 miles southwest of Casa Grande. These projects are in cooperation with the Phoenix District Office of the Bureau of Land Management (BLM), and their efforts to bolster the habitat quality within this defined Sonoran pronghorn recovery zone. This project and other fence removals benefit the captive-raised Sonoran Pronghorn which were released in the immediate area in January 2022 and 2023, with 22 and 10 animals released respectively. These pioneering animals have taken to this previously occupied pronghorn habitat and are now often seen by wildlife biologists and others visiting this portion of the Sonoran Desert Monument. The continued efforts by Arizona Antelope Foundation (AAF) to remove additional retired livestock fencing further enhances the ability of the pronghorn to effectively expand their use areas, setting in motion the long-term establishment of a viable population. The Sonoran Pronghorn subspecies is not hunted, is currently federally listed as Endangered, and its restoration is being co-managed by the US Fish and Wildlife Service and the Arizona Game and Fish Department. For a thorough discussion of the Sonoran Pronghorn's recovery efforts please review the 4th Quarter 2022 issue of the *Pronghorn*.

For this project we had 38 volunteers, who enjoyed a cooler than average March bluebird day. The day could not have been more perfect. The generous winter rains set up a vivid display of greenery and multiple colors of flowers which carpeted portions of the desert floor. The fences removed were accessible near a road and the terrain was predominantly level and open. The soil was loose from the winter rains, which made for easy removal of the metal t-posts. Three teams of volunteers worked like well-oiled machines; clipping the wire from the fence, which was followed by gas powered wire rollers. A total of four miles of four strand fence along with the associated t-posts were removed.

I am convinced our actions will benefit the pronghorn and other wildlife in the area for decades to come. One of our retired biologists observed pronghorn tracks right on top of the work crew's tracks, which meant those animals crossed where the fence was once a barrier just a few hours previously!

The three Bureau of Land Management (BLM) biologists responsible for this area, Kendra Loubere, Laura Howland, and Dan Fiorenza, recently moved into their positions and this was their first AAF project. They were all impressed with how the AAF volunteers worked together in an effective and safe manner to remove those four miles of fence in the one-day project. We also were very fortunate to have Roger Joos present. Roger recently transferred from the local BLM biologist position and moved to the cooler country working as a district biologist on the Prescott National Forest. Roger, a recent AAF life member, is also an accomplished wire roller operator. He used this project as an opportunity to conduct an on-the-job wire roller machine training session with the new biologists so that they felt comfortable running the roller on the next fence removal project.



Ken, Richard, and Mike gathering up the four strands of barbed wire and clearing it from desert vegetation so it can be rolled up.

As stated previously, this effort is in direct support of the Endangered Pronghorn re-establishment efforts. These projects will help ensure that pronghorn and resident mule deer can safely utilize open desert without interference due to fence line obstructions.

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

I have made an observation and wanted to make a recommendation to our volunteers: The Vekol Valley work project site is located just over one hour's drive from the Phoenix area and a good portion of our volunteers head home after the work is done on Saturday afternoon. In my opinion, you are not only missing out on a great complimentary steak dinner with all the trimmings, but also on a relaxing evening of comradery with fellow wildlife conservationists. Next time, please consider extending your stay, soak in the scenery, and savor the contributions you and your AAF made that day to improve wildlife habitats.

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

- Representing the AAF Board: Ken Meadors, Darrell Tersey, Jamie Watkins, Joe-Bill Pickrell, and yours truly.
- BLM Area Biologists: Kendra Loubere, Laura Howland, and Dan Fiorenza
- Game and Fish Commissioner and AAF Life Member: Marsha Sue
- Game & Fish personnel: Troy Christensen and Tania Peret
- Other AAF members and volunteers: Mary and Bill Keebler, Bo Nicole Boulrier, Jason Angell, Cameron Becker, Tim Brown, Christian Frueh, Johnny Johnson, Al Kreutz, Larry Langstaff, Roger Joos, Alex Watkins, Deana Watkins, Ken Cook, Kathy Cook, Mike Ebright, Jay Leadabrand, Steve Olson, Sharon Olson, Dale Maas, David McCasland, John O'Brien, Taylor Ray, Richard Roller, Frank Tennant, and of course Al Sue.



Thanks, everyone for your efforts!

Left: Al uses bolt cutters to remove the metal stays hiding in a creosote. There is a downed tree that needs to be pulled away from the fence line.

Below: Group Photo

More photos page 6

Photo credit Jamie Watkins



Vekol Valley Bureau of Land Management Fence Removal: Some of Our Volunteers



L-Following behind Al, Bo removes clips from a t-post so the barbed wire can be lowered to the ground.



L-New volunteers ready to go



R-Game and Fish employee Tania cuts a stay from the barbed wire.



Above-Cameron follows along the fence line to pick up the clips and pieces of the metal stays removed by other volunteers.



L-One of the wire-rolling crews poses for a snapshot. Roger provides new BLM employee, Dan, with training on using the wire-roller.



L-New volunteer, Taylor, poses with AAF-regulars Deana and Alex. Taylor and Alex removed metal stays with Deana following close behind to ensure all scraps were cleaned up.

Lower corner-Ken and Kathy Cook with their tools at the beginning of the work day.



Marsha working to remove metal stays from the fence while Darrell keeps the top wire lifted so it doesn't fall in the vegetation.



AAF wire-rolling crew (Johnny, Al, and Dave)



Below-One of the crews working to remove a section of fence.

HISTORICAL CAPTURE & TRANSLOCATION OF 30 PRONGHORN IN SOUTHEASTERN ARIZONA

GLEN DICKENS- VP / AAF

On January 23-24, 2023; 4 Arizona Antelope Foundation (AAF) board members, 23 volunteers and 15 Arizona Game and Fish Department (AGFD) employees processed 30 pronghorn, (6 bucks-24 does) captured by helicopter net-gunning in the San Bernardino Valley for transport to the Buenos Aires National Wildlife Refuge (BANWR) in the south end of the Altar Valley. The capture and transplant was the first to be conducted in the Tucson Region of the AGFD whereby a reintroduced sub-population of pronghorn had increased in numbers creating a surplus permitting their capture and translocation.

*But let's review a bit of the historical record about the reintroduced pronghorn and their habitat with the following excerpt from our 2019 National Fish and Wildlife Foundation final report entitled **Southeastern Arizona Grasslands Pronghorn Initiative**;*

SAN BERNARDINO VALLEY-142,298 Acres (Game Mgt Unit 30A)

OVERVIEW

The San Bernardino Valley was historic pronghorn habitat, but by 1930, pronghorn were completely absent. In 1984 and 1986, the AGFD reintroduced 113 Chihuahuan (*Antilocapra americana*) pronghorn from Marfa, Texas. Connectivity was not identified as a significant limiting factor based on valley-wide pronghorn distribution during surveys and substantiated by replacement of nearly 5 miles of pronghorn friendly fence by multiple ranches. However, three fence projects were completed to address north/south pronghorn crossings in two key zones. A total of 5.50 miles of fence were modified or replaced which increased overall connectivity by 15,000 acres. Water distribution and security was considered adequate but some improvement was needed in the central part of the valley. Four water projects were completed to address this need. Grasslands in this valley are primarily maintained by the rigorous scientific fire and grazing regimes practiced by ranchers/landowners from the Malpai Borderlands Conservation Group. Additionally, much of the herd zone's acreage are now under conservation easements held by the Malpai Borderlands Conservation Group. The San Bernardino Valley pronghorn population has met the grant's minimum herd population of 125 animals since 2015.

*Now let's also review a very successful population survey we conducted on Sunday April 12, 2020 with this excerpt from the **Pronghorn Magazine**;*

San Bernardino Valley:

On Sunday August 12, 2020, seven personnel from the AGFD led by Field Supervisor Mike Richens and assisted by John Millican and Betty and Glen Dickens conducted the first ever saturation ground survey in the San Bernardino Valley in unit 30A. We had bluebird weather that morning and had good road conditions throughout the survey zone. We counted a record number of pronghorn 271; 69 bucks, 119 does, and 84 fawns for a 71% fawning success rate!

When the grant efforts began in 2012 the total number of pronghorn observed was just 71 animals. In addition to improvements made on fences and water distribution this herd zone received fawn enhancement treatment by active coyote removal in 2014-16 and again in 2019-20. Field Supervisor Mike Richens stated after reviewing the final data that 30B likely has 300 pronghorn today. Success by all metrics!

Now Back to 2023:

The purpose of this capture project was to give a significant population and genetic boost to a remnant population (estimate 15-25) of pronghorn on the 117,000 acre National Fish and Wildlife Buenos Aires National Wildlife Refuge (BANWR). The refuge is now fenceless due to the efforts of the Friends of Buenos Aires led by Rita Rutledge over the past 10+ years removing 185 miles of fence and modifying 3 key miles of fence on both sides of HW286. In addition over the past 10 years some 10,000 acres of grasslands have been restored by grubbing mesquite with several more acreages scheduled to be restored in 2023 and beyond. Several waters have been improved or restored and the refuge has an active and ongoing annual grasslands burn program. All leading to making the management call to do this supplemental transplant.

To explain the overall capture-translocation objectives I'm including here the instructions emailed on December 22, 2022 to all participants to be involved in the translocation by Tucson Region AGFD Game Specialist Rana Murphy

“The goal of this project is to capture up to 30 pronghorn at a ratio of 1 buck to every 5 does. How many we end up transporting will depend on the total number captured by the end of the day on the 23rd (see below). This is a helicopter capture, which is run just like a bighorn translocation, where a helicopter will locate and net one or more pronghorn at a time and sling them back to a processing area to be checked by the veterinarian, ear-tagged and/or collared, and loaded into a transport trailer. We are borrowing the 2 bumper-pull horse trailers modified specifically for pronghorn transport from Region 4, which hold approximately 20 pronghorn each. We have contracted Heliwild's services for the helicopter work; it should go quickly since it is flat terrain and the pronghorn are generally easy to locate (compared to bighorns).

The helicopter will arrive onsite around 7:30 am on the 23rd. Once we have briefed everyone on safety and expectations, the helicopter will hit the air, probably by 8:00. We will fill one trailer (there is a separate compartment we can use for bucks to keep them separate from the does) with as many pronghorn as we can catch by noon, and it will depart for BANWR no later than 1pm on the 23rd. This will allow us to release the first batch before dark and not hold those animals overnight.

The helicopter will then continue to capture, and the additional animals will be loaded into the second trailer. If we get close to 30 animals caught by the end of the 23rd, we may cease the effort and depart with the second trailer that evening, so the second batch can be released first thing in the morning on the 24th. If we are not close enough to 30 for a satisfactory effort, we will keep the second batch overnight in the trailer on site, and continue to capture until noon on the 24th, or until we reach our target.

I welcome everyone's attendance and appreciate your support for this very valuable project! I look forward to seeing you there.

Have a merry Christmas, and a very happy New Year!”

On Sunday January 22nd everyone arrived all afternoon and evening to the Douglas Best Western and Gadsden hotels to spend the next 2 nights at “base camp”. Some hearty souls with trailers and tents and cars camped up Price canyon 6 miles from the processing site located east of HW80 across from the Price Canyon road.

January 23rd was a very cold morning when volunteers and AGFD personnel departed Douglas in a caravan at 6AM for the 45 minute drive to the processing site. The weather report was predicting a full blown snow-storm hitting the valley by 11AM so we needed to capture at least 10+ animals by 10:30 and get them on their way to the BANWR. The basic steps covered by most of the photos in this article were;

1. Setup of the processing zone
2. AGFD spotter plane circling east of the processing zone looking for herds of pronghorn
3. Helicopter up and conducting the net gunning captures with transport back to the safe drop zone
4. Capture nets removed and animals put on stretchers or being carried back to the processing zone
5. Each pronghorn being ear tagged, some collared, blood taken all the while their respective temperatures monitored closely and in some cases being doused by water to cool them down

6. Transport by stretcher to the transport trailer
7. 5-hour drive the BANWR and successful release before sunset

The operation ran flawlessly beginning at 8AM with the first delivery of the pronghorn being a stringer of 4 animals, much to everyone's surprise! All hands carried out their assigned respective roles as the chopper came and went, making it's deliveries about every 30 minutes. And right on schedule at 11AM a rare SE Arizona 3 hour blizzard slammed the processing site with very large flakes as a single trailer with its precious cargo started west to the BANWR. Everyone was smiling and relieved that day one had come off exactly as planned.

With the snowstorm the temperatures dropped another 10 degrees and folks gathered in the abandoned tin shed where Betty and I had set up a full service coffee/juice/fruit/bagel bar paid for by the AAF for all the assembled persons. Over 2 mornings we served 5 gallons of coffee and as cold as it was, it was much appreciated as it was out of the snow/wind,



Day two operated flawlessly again and by noon the remaining pronghorn had been captured,

processed, and loaded into the trailer. We participated as a chase vehicle and were able to attend the 2nd day release at the BANWR at 5PM. A total of 30 pronghorn were released with 10 sporting radio collars. The 10 collars costing \$25K were paid for by the AAF (\$15K) and \$10K from a Wildlife License Plate grant administered by the Az Sportsman for Wildlife Conservation. The radio-collared pronghorn to provide seasonal habitat use information for 24+ months post-release. The Data to be uploaded at least 4 times daily and analyzed by a GIS/Game Specialist periodically. The focus will be on learning where resident pronghorn are fawning, breeding and the key zones they utilize seasonally for foraging. Post-release mortalities over the next 10 days were 5 pronghorn, 2 of capture myopathy and 3 due to predation by mountain lions and coyotes. This percentage of initial transplant mortality is well within acceptable biological limits. The really good news is that all the other pronghorn released with collared animals have been observed upright/healthy and mixed in with groups of resident pronghorn.

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

-Representing the AAF; Darrell Tersey, Gary Boyer, Jamie Hawkins, Betty Dickens, Dale Maas, Marsha & Al Sue, Mike Ebright, Fritz Sawyer, John Millican, Marsha Halcrow, Earl Polvent & yours truly

-Representing the AGFD; Callie Hartson-Cavalcant, Anne Justice-Allen, Josh Avey, Katie Schwartz, Bo Boulier, Matthew Karam, Noah Silva, Raul Vega, Ron Hazzler, Mike Richins, Kirby Bristow, Jeremiah Fountain, Natalie Scheigert, AJ Lander & AZGFD Commissioner Marsha Sue

-Representing the US Fish & Wildlife Service; Matt Frederickson +3

-Youth Student Volunteers; Deana Hawkins & Shelby Moore

-Volunteers; Adam Corlin, Mike Spence & Caren McCurdy

-10X Ranch Manager Smith Family; Chance, Iliana, Ella, Gideon, Sadie & Titus

-Contract Helicopter Crew; Jeryd Kleynhang, Justin Thompson, Schutz, Mariot & James Buckhand



Pictorial Essay of the Translocation of 30A Pronghorn to the BANWR

Photo credit Betty Dickens



Pronghorn on their way



Capture helicopter approaching



South Africa contract capture team



AZGFD Noah & Raul and AAF Jamie transporting



Delivery X2 with weather in the background



AAF Earl, AZGFD Rana, and AAF John transporting



Transporting

Helicopter crew assisting with Volunteer ground transport



Rapid transport to Processing Area



AZGFD Wildlife Manager assisting with transport



AAF Volunteer AI gathering transportation tarp



AZGFD Vet Staff



AZGFD Vet Staff and Wildlife Manager



AZGFD Staff Processing



Temp taken and processing



Processing. Doe ear tagged, photo credit Dale Maas



Cooling pronghorn, photo credit Dale Maas



Cooling pronghorn with water bath, photo Dale Maas



Deana, Mike, Callie, and Commissioner Marsha



AZGFD, USFW, and AAF represented



NAU student/AAF volunteer Deana, enjoying the moment!



Glen videotapes another Pronghorn saving effort



Volunteers transporting doe, photo credit Dale Maas



Pronghorn headed AZGFD trailer

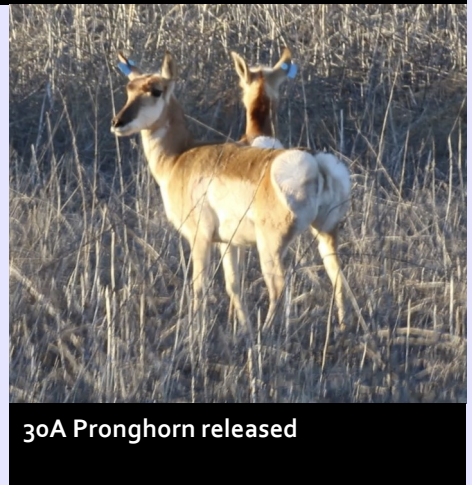


Release terrain

Processing & Release



Trailer and two does exiting



30A Pronghorn released

BONITA-ALLEN FLAT 2ND ANNUAL AAF-AGFD WINTER PRONGHORN SURVEYS

Nine Arizona Antelope Foundation (AAF) volunteers led by Tucson Regional Game Specialist Rana Tucker and AAF SE Arizona Field Manager John Millican conducted its second bi-annual “winter pronghorn survey” on January 28/29. The Bonita and Allen Flat pronghorn herd zones are located north and northwest of Willcox in game management unit 32.

Results were mixed with 113 pronghorn recorded in the Bonita herd zone, in 2021 we observed 219 pronghorn. We had reports from ranch owners of two alfalfa fields that each had over 100 animals. John Millican followed up and did observe a field with 106 pronghorn in one herd! A total of 41 pronghorn were recorded in the Allen Flat herd zone, previous survey high was 70 in 2019.



The Bonita herd zone totals 268,000 acres and the Allen Flat herd zone totals 68,000 acres. 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 grant and other funds. The lower numbers were chalked up to at least 2 locked gates and our inability to survey both zones completely as well as a reduced number of AAF survey volunteers.

This is the second of what is a biannual 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 which has occurred in July for the past 10 years will now receive a bi-annual winter survey to provide overall population trends. We are suspending our annual summer survey efforts since the AGFD made the decision due to the ongoing drought conditions to do their annual aerial summer surveys for all units that have hunts. Those surveys provide the necessary buck/doe/fawn ratios to make seasonal hunt recommendations.

Thanks go out to the following team of surveyors;

John Millican, AAF SE Az Field Manager

Rana Murphy Arizona Game & Fish Tucson Game Specialist

Board members, Glen Dickens, Dave Cagle, Gary Boyer, Darrell Tersey

AAF members, Betty Dickens, Cheryl Cagle, Warren Adams, Marsha Halcrow and Duane Aubuchon

Photo credit Betty Dickens





SONORAN PRONGHORN UPDATE



JILL BRIGHT, AZ GAME & FISH

MARCH–MID APRIL 2023

Captive Breeding Cabeza Pen

The first fawns at Cabeza were observed in south pen on March 23, nearly two weeks later than last year. Fawns were not observed in north pen until March 30. So far, 7 fawns have been observed in north pen, and nine in south pen. Unfortunately, a doe fawn was found dead on April 12. She was very small and could possibly have been still-born. A 2-year old doe in north pen was found dead on March 24; cause of death was unknown. She had not appeared pregnant and looked healthy prior to her death. Her organs were too deteriorated for disease testing. Neither mortality was predator related.

After the coyote incursion in February, the biologists began lowering and realigning the inner electric fence wires along the bottom of the fence to discourage and prevent any predators from being able to squeeze between the individual electric fence wires and the squares in the hog fence. No predators have been noted in the pen since.

There were a few rain events throughout March, totaling 0.82 inches, with the heaviest one occurring during the first week. There was some fence damage, but the new designs the crew has implemented in the construction of the fencing in the washes made repairs quick and easy. The pen has still been relatively green despite fewer rain events. Natural forage continued to entice the pronghorn more than the alfalfa but they are starting to consume more alfalfa as it dries out in April.

NORTH HALF		SOUTH HALF	
Adult Females	10	Adult Females	12
Yearling Females (<i>b</i> 202)	3	Yearling Females (<i>b</i> 2022)	7
Adult Males	7	Adult Males	6
Yearling Males (<i>b</i> 2022)	4	Yearling Males (<i>b</i> 2022)	6
Fawns (<i>b</i> 2023)	7	Fawns (<i>b</i> 2023)	9
TOTAL	31	TOTAL	40
Total Pen	71		

Kofa Pen

The herd has been spending most of their foraging time in the southwestern corner of the pen, where there is a large wash lined with trees, shrubs, and other forage still flush with new growth.

The herd has dispersed into smaller groups due to fawning season. The bucks and yearling does group often up together while the older does who are pregnant have formed smaller groups of two or three. The first fawns were observed on March 21; there have been 12 fawns observed so far.

There was an unfortunate incident with a small doe fawn. The fawn was able to get out of the pen, and was observed when the biologist noticed a doe pacing along the fence. The biologist opened a nearby gate to attempt to get the fawn back in the pen and thought she had gone in as the mother left the area and appeared to calm down. Unfortunately, the fawn must not have got in and was found dead outside the pen during the next observation session. The pen crew is working on putting up chicken wire along the lower section of the woven wire fence where some of the squares are now known to be large enough to allow a fawn to get out.

The Kofa pen is still green with another 0.96 inches of rain occurring in March usually accompanied with high winds. The winds and water flow events caused some fence damage. The repairs are ongoing with both the perimeter fence and the electrical fence. Many of the washes going through the pen eroded the ground and caused deep pits which are being filled in to prevent predators from entering the pen.

Adult Females	14
Yearling Females (<i>b</i> 2022)	3
Adult Males	4
Yearling Males (<i>b</i> 2022)	5
Fawns (<i>b</i> 2023)	11
TOTAL	37

A bobcat has entered and exited the pen on several occasions in March and April. It does not seem to be spending much time in the pen, but the crew is attempting to remove it. The chicken wire on the lower fence should also help keep predators out if they are squeezing in that way. We do not have any evidence that it has killed any fawns.

Wild Pronghorn Cabeza / ORPI / BMGR Herd : We have not done any recent telemetry flights in this area. The buck that originally moved to the Foothills golf course, and then to the San Luis area has finally returned to the Mohawk Valley. The pronghorn monitors working on the Air Force ranges have observed several fawns.

Wild Pronghorn Kofa Subunit: This area has remained very green. On recent telemetry flights the pronghorn have been found in their usual areas; some of the newly released ones have joined up with wild pronghorn. The buck that moved to the east has returned to the area north of the holding pen. Several wild pronghorn (4 M, 4-5 F) have been photographed at a water near the pen. Several other wild pronghorn have been photographed at waters in King Valley. No fawns have been observed yet in this herd.

Wild Pronghorn Saucedá Subunit: This area has also remained green and in good condition. Over an inch of rain was recorded on the western side of this sub-unit. We have not been able to complete any telemetry flights in this area and we do not have any working GPS collars in this herd.

Wild Pronghorn Vekol Valley Herd: This area also remains in good forage condition. Four of the newly released male pronghorn made large movements from the Vekol Valley east onto the Tohono O’odham Nation; they have all returned to the Vekol Valley. There was a mortality of a newly-released doe in March near Interstate 10, and a buck in April south of the holding pen. Both were killed by mountain lions.

Forage Enhancements: : Forage enhancement are green from rain and are not being irrigated at this time. Charlie Bell received 0.85 inches of rain in March, and Knucklehead got 0.68 inches. Pronghorn are starting to return to our waters as temperatures rise. We have not initiated any supplemental alfalfa feeding as forage condition throughout the range are still good.

Written April 12, 2023

MEMBERSHIP

LIFE MEMBERS

1. Art Pearce, Phoenix
2. Jim Mehen, Flagstaff
3. Larry D. Adams, Bullhead City
4. James K. McCasland,
5. Nina Gammons, Payette, ID
6. Nancy Lewis, Phoenix
7. Pete Cimellaro, Phoenix
8. Jerry Weiers, Phoenix
9. Harry Carlson, Phoenix
10. David Brown, Phoenix
11. Art Boswell, Tucson
12. Charlie Kelly, Scottsdale
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14. Al Sue, Scottsdale
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16. Bill Keebler, Happy Jack
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31. Randy Cherington, Scottsdale
32. Joe Del Re, Chandler
33. Bob Walker, Phoenix
34. Cookie Nicoson, Williams
35. Tim Blank, Mesa
36. Jodi Stewart, Gilbert
37. Keith Joyner, Scottsdale
38. David Hussey, Cave Creek
39. Susan Pearce, Tucson
40. Glen Dickens, Tucson
41. Will Garrison, Peoria
42. Tom Waddell, Arizona
43. Josiah Austin, Pearce
44. Connie Taylor, Mesa
45. Mark Boswell, Mesa
46. Jessica R. Pearce, Scottsdale
47. Douglas Hartzler, Phoenix
48. Karen LaFrance, Phoenix
49. Kurt Schulz, Waddell
50. Walt Scrimgeour
51. Clifford Nystrom
52. Jon Coppa, Patagonia
53. Neal Brown, Phoenix
54. Tice Supplee, Phoenix
55. Richard Miller, Flagstaff
56. William Cullins, Chandler
57. Robert Neal Bushong, Yuma
58. Art & Rosanne Porter
59. Matt McNeil, Chandler
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61. Gary Higby, Cottonwood
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