



PRONGHORN

2nd Quarter 2015
Volume 21 Number 2



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

WE ARE PRIVILEGED TO HAVE ANOTHER AWESOME PHOTO FROM BETTY DICKENS

THIS BUCK POSED FOR BETTY AT MILEPOST 29 ON HIGHWAY 83

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:

Tracy Unmacht, Pronghorn Editor, PO Box 12590, Glendale, AZ 85318, or by email at info@azantelope.org.

PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

You're about to read stories in the following issues of successes AAF is having in our SE Arizona Initiative as well as other areas around the state. Early reports from our recent SE Arizona ground surveys show the population has tripled since we began our NFWF grant project 4 years ago. These are the type of results that truly enact environmental change. This concerted, focused, well managed and heavily volunteer supported program is how a legacy is left.

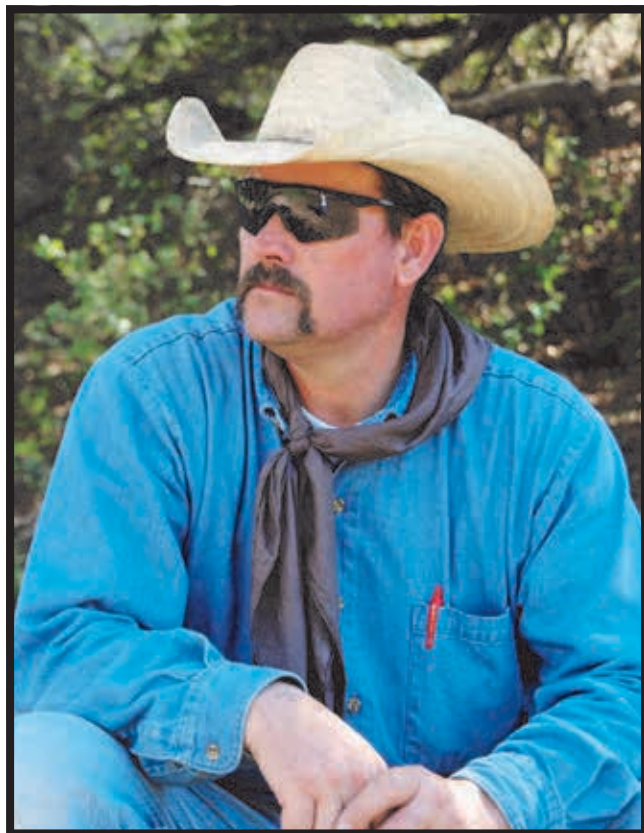
We are doing exactly what I believe the founders of this organization intended it to do. For this accomplishment, I could not be more pleased.

I would encourage each and everyone of you to join us at a board meeting, invite a friend and be a part of this really exciting movement.

I would also like to thank long time member Art Porter on behalf of everyone here at AAF. Art generously donated a fully equipped Arctic Cat ATV to the organization for use on our habitat improvement projects. This was indeed an extremely generous donation, and one that was truly needed. **THANKS AGAIN ART PORTER!!**

For those of you with antelope tags in your pockets, I hope your scouting is going well and your hunt goes better.

Shane Stewart, President



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



Photo by
Betty
Dickens

These bucks
were
sighted on
the morning
of the April
project,
close to the
work area.

SUMMARY OF PRONGHORN FIELD RESEARCH

BY SARAH ODELE, TOMBSTONE AGRICULTURE DEPARTMENT INSTRUCTOR

Background – The Pronghorn (*Antilocarpa Americana*), frequently referred to as antelope have shown to survive in the western region of Elgin, Arizona. The following research material was collected to study the availability of vegetation, and water quality; which is important to the pronghorn population. Assistance by the Arizona Antelope Foundation, Arizona Game and Fish, and the Hereford Natural Resources Conservation District, allowed the opportunity and collaboration of Tombstone High Schools' Agriculture Department to participate in the study of pronghorn; to further continue the research of 2013-2014 study 'Correlation between Free Water Availability and Pronghorn.' The 2014-2015 school years were utilized to establish the relationship between vegetative cover classes in there fawning season, and water availability. The summarization is a progress report containing the following statistical data from four Antelope Field Trips taken throughout the 2014-2015 school year in Elgin, Arizona. This project focused on improving the pronghorn populations in the following main areas:

1. Enhance grazing management of preferred pronghorn forage
 2. Observe water quality and quantity
 3. Conserve available habitats within the landscape; through protecting grassland cover for fawning habitat by pronghorn
- Increase seasonal and annual availability of water.

Harvest Report - The Tombstone High School Agriculture students surveyed the water availability and quality across 7 different water sources (4 piped in water troughs and 3 dirt tanks). We studied water availability against known pronghorn fawning sites, as well as, random sites to establish if accessibility of open water was associated with preferred fawning locations.

The water samples were collected between January through April, 2015, with pH levels of >7.5, making all waters safe for animal use. Over this period two of the three dirt tanks went dry, which correlated with increased temperatures and Arizona's windy spring season. Observations indicated that the dirt tanks had high levels of fecal and windblown contaminants, while the water troughs remained relatively clean and free of outside contaminants. All locations were within 1 mile of available water sources.

Due to the lack of livestock grazing the area during our

field visits, vegetation height and density throughout the project area was good. Along with Pronghorn, a variety of other wildlife and sign was observed, including javelina and coyotes. Negative effects resulting from coyote predation on Pronghorn fawns was of central concern, allowing the class to complete vegetative height transects at ten locations, 5 within identified fawning areas and 5 at random points outside known fawning areas.



Picture A. Angelina Mariconde utilizing GPS tracking device for vegetative transect

The vegetative measurements allowed us to measure vegetative cover class heights at fawning sites and compare data with sites not preferred by Pronghorn. At each transect start point we recorded the transect name, transect point, cover class, and vegetative cover composition (*grass, forbs, woody, and bare ground*). We estimated average cover class at each random site with Visual Obstruction Heights ranging from 0-20 cm and 21-40 cm (below 16") and having a rather flat slope. Visual Obstruction Heights at known fawning locations ranged between 21-40 cm and 41-60cm (16" up to 24"), composed of mainly grasses and forbs, with an uphill and downhill slope. These cover heights are ideal to conceal Pronghorn fawns and the broken ground allows the doe a visual advantage.

In conclusion, the field trips for the Antelope Field Day were a success in the continuation of previous research with collaboration of Hereford NRC, Arizona Antelope Foundation and Arizona Game and Fish. We enjoyed the experience, and hope to continue further research, piecing our data together for the following 2015-2016 school year.



Setting vegetative height transect



Collecting vegetative height transect



Completing vegetative height transect



Water collection assisted by Brad Fulk



Taking temperature and water samples



Glen Dickens giving project overview

PROJECT REPORT
BY GLEN DICKENS, AAF VICE PRESIDENT AND PROJECT/GRANTS MANAGER

Another successful AAF project was completed by 42 volunteers and Arizona Game and Fish Department (AZGFD) personnel in southeastern Arizona on April 17-18, 2015. We modified 2.6 miles of existing highway right-of-way (ROW) fence on both sides of Highway 83 from Sonoita north to the Las Cienegas Ranch Road. This segment of fence encompassed at least 5 known and documented Pronghorn crossing zones and is expected to increase significantly safer pronghorn crossing opportunities. It plays a key part in completing the critical northwestern portion of the overall Santa Cruz Plains pronghorn corridor improvement project.

We owe a big thanks to the Arizona Department of Transportation Tucson Office for working with the AZGFD and AAF to aid in the improvement of Pronghorn connectivity and public safety along the stretches of Highway 83 ROW that were modified. These 5 areas had been identified as either Pronghorn crossing zones, or locations where Pronghorn had been observed near the ROW and fence modification would assist their unencumbered movement along with reducing vehicle issues.

Over the next 2 years in 2016/17, fence modifications along specific stretches of Highway 82 and 83, south of the Elgin School will be completed by AAF volunteers.



(Continued on page 6)

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All fence materials for this project were purchased with National Fish and Wildlife Grant funds and this effort benefits the National Fish and Wildlife Foundation grant in that all labor hours, materials and mileage from this project will be used to match the AAF's \$430K 6-year grant for our "Southeastern Arizona Grasslands Pronghorn Initiative". The grant has a goal of improving up to 100,000 acres of "Pronghorn habitat connectivity".

Camp was located adjacent to HW 83 and the Las Cienegas Ranch road. A big thanks to the BLM Tucson Office for working with the AAF to secure the camp area. A delicious steak dinner was served on Saturday night with the sides provided by Mary and Bill Keebler and they hosted Saturday and Sunday morning breakfasts as well, thanks Mary and Bill!

(Continued on page 7)





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

-Representing the AAF Board: Shane Stewart, Al Sue, Dave Cruce, Terry Schupp, Connie Taylor, Joe Bill Pickrell, Brian George and yours truly.

-Other AAF members and volunteers: Bill/Mary Keebler, Art Boswell, Betty Dickens, John Millican, Ken/Kathy Cook, Gary Boyer, Warren Adams, Ray Blanchard, Roger Joos, Jerry Guevin, Will Hayes, Jim/Tracy Unmacht and Dave Laird.

-Mule Deer Foundation: A.G. Montiel, Sherry Kapaldo, Jim Lawrence & his two daughters Tatum and Taylor

-Audubon Research Ranch: Roger Cogan and Dan Robinett

-Fort Huachuca: Sheridan Stone

-Game & Fish personnel: Troy Christensen, Aaron Miller, Brad Fulk, Ken Pitzlin, Kristin Terpening, John Bacorn, Gilbert Gonzales, Jeff Gagnon, Scott Sprague, Chad Loberg and Dennis Fogal.

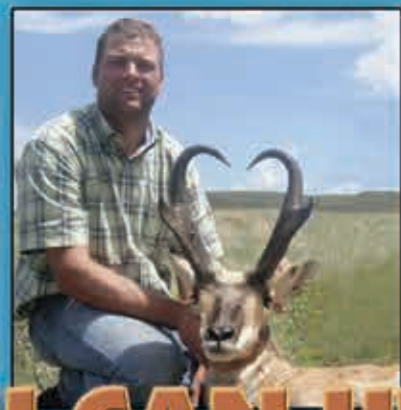
Thanks everyone for your efforts!



Photos by Betty Dickens



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CENTRAL ARIZONA GRASSLAND CONSERVATION STRATEGY

BY KELLY WOLFF-KRAUTER & TREVOR BUHR, AZGFD HABITAT PROGRAM MANAGERS

Background:

The Central Arizona Grassland Conservation Strategy (CAGCS) was signed (2010) by three signatory agencies to the charter with complementary roles and responsibilities in managing historic grassland ecosystems and/or the wildlife species that inhabit them. The Bureau of Land Management (BLM) management emphasis within the Agua Fria National Monument (AFNM) is to conserve and restore diverse habitats, vegetative communities and corridors of connectivity to sustain a wide range of native species. The Arizona Game and Fish Department (AGFD) holds the public trust responsibility of managing the wildlife that inhabit these ecosystems. This includes but is not limited to gathering and managing wildlife data, and providing expertise in the implementation of management strategies.

A key grassland species with a high conservation and restoration priority for the AGFD is the American pronghorn. Pronghorn are recognized as a “Priority Game Species” by the BLM. The Forest Service (FS) in the Southwestern Region is operating under the “Central Priority” that emphasizes restoration of fire adapted ecosystems, of which grasslands are a major component. The Forest Service recognizes pronghorn as a Management Indicator Species (MIS) for grassland ecosystems serving as an umbrella species, representative of a whole suite of species with related habitat needs, which rely upon grasslands for all or part of their life-cycles. As an umbrella species, it is assumed that if management actions initiated in grasslands will provide benefit to pronghorn, those same management actions will provide benefit to the other species that make up that suite of grassland wildlife species.



Unit 21 transplanted pronghorn

Pronghorn population estimates statewide continue to remain below target levels. Grassland habitats are threatened from a variety of factors in central Arizona. Several independent efforts to address pronghorn populations and habitats are ongoing. However, a single coordinated look at central Arizona’s grasslands and associated pronghorn habitat is needed in order to gain maximum use of limited agency resources. The mission of this conservation strategy is to develop an integrated management strategy for conservation and restoration of grassland ecosystems and associated pronghorn populations in central Arizona.

restoration of grassland ecosystems and the wildlife species that inhabit them can be maximized for the American public. Working with the Chino Winds and Triangle Natural Resource Conservation District and the Natural Resource Conservation Service, the mission of this effort is to develop an integrated management strategy for the conservation and restoration of grassland ecosystems and associated pronghorn populations in central Arizona. The strategy includes habitat assessment information, risk assessments to grassland ecosystems and pronghorn populations by game management unit, management strategies and recommendations. One of the goals is to use an interdisciplinary approach for

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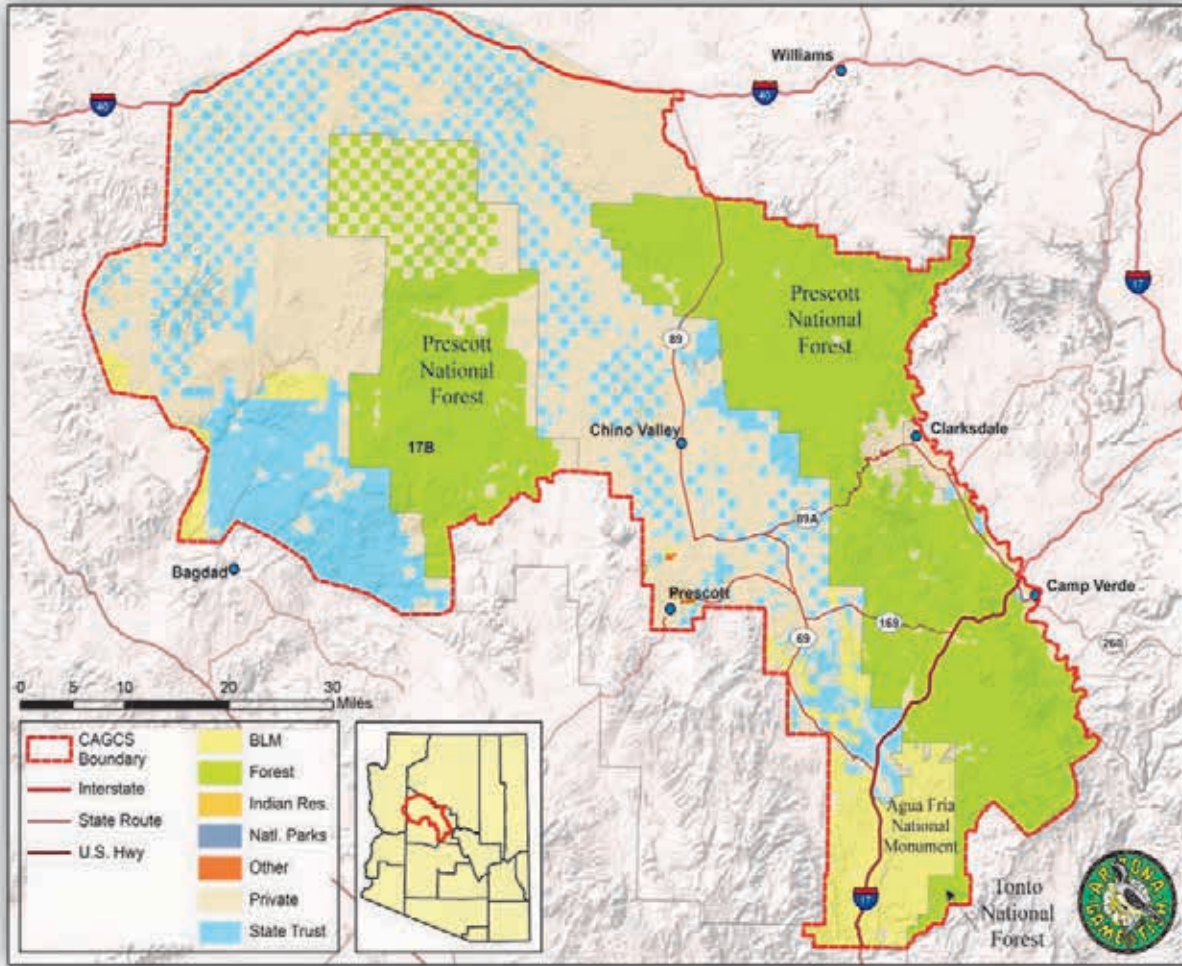
The three agencies recognized that by working together,

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implementation. The strategy is viewed as a dynamic work in progress with emphasis for “on the ground” management actions.

The focal area for the strategy generally encompasses three types of grasslands; plains, great basin and semi

desert grasslands, which all converge generally in central Arizona. The plan includes federal, state and private lands between I-40 and the Agua Fria National Monument, just north of Phoenix. Chino Valley, Prescott and Prescott Valley, Dewey, Mayer and Cordes Lakes are the major population centers within the plan area.



CAGCS Structure and Process:

The success of the CAGCS depends on commitment and follow through by sponsor agencies to include supporting restoration actions into annual work plans and budgets; as well public support and development of future partnerships with key stakeholders and landowners. Implementation of the CAGCS is coordinated by an Interagency Team. The team meets no less than bi-annually (or as agreed upon by the sponsors) to:

- ✦ Evaluate progress towards the goals, strategies, objectives and actions
- ✦ Incorporate new data about resources and needs into plans
- ✦ Identify new projects and funding opportunities
- ✦ Prioritize projects into annual work plans

Develop and maintain project management and tracking databases to ensure an agile approach to resource conservation planning and implementation

Public participation is recognized as a vital piece to this strategy and projects, and all of the partner agencies are looking for ways to support and encourage this participation. Public participation introduces a range of ideas, experiences, perspectives and expertise that motivate the development of alternative solutions. This in-turn, enhances the knowledge of the people involved in decision-making and implementation of the projects under the strategy. For the success of the CAGCS, it is impor-

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tant to know what the views and interests of our stakeholders are. For general information and updates, please refer to our blog site:

<http://centralazgrassland.tumblr.com/>.

We have upcoming plans to share information and get input from the public at Statewide Habitat Partnership Committee meetings, local Habitat Partnership Committee meetings, Natural Resource Conservation District meetings and other venues to be determined. In addition, we hope to develop workshops and field tours in the future to highlight restoration efforts and plan new projects.

Goals and Management Actions :

The two main goals of the strategy are to improve the health of the grassland ecosystem and improve populations of wildlife associated with the grasslands. Various objectives, strategies and actions were developed through a collaborative process including: juniper thinning/eradication with various techniques,, prescribed fire, fence modifications to improve permeability for wildlife, wildlife water developments, eradication of invasive species (snakeweed, mesquite, catclaw, etc.), telemetry for movement of pronghorn to identify target treatments and predator management (see the CAGCS for full list of potential management actions: http://www.azgfd.gov/w_c/WildlifePlanning.shtml).



Fencing



Juniper handcutting with a chainsaw



Pile burning



Before (left) and after (right and center) hand cutting, followed by fuels treatment (burning piles)

Funding sources :

Millions of dollars have been spent since 2006 with funding through the Arizona Game and Fish Department. Funding partnerships have also included:

- AGFD Wildlife Conservation Fund
- AGFD Game and Fish Fund
- AGFD Pittman Robinson State Grants for Central Arizona Grassland Conservation Strategy (CAGCS)
- AGFD Pittman Robinson State Grants for Mule Deer Initiative (WHEI)
- AGFD Habitat Partnership Committee: Mule Deer/Antelope tag funds
- Department of Interior - Healthy Lands Initiative funding (through BLM)

- Bureau of Land Management – annual appropriations from various program budgets
- Prescott National Forest – annual appropriations from various program budgets

Below provides some funding numbers from the Arizona Game and Fish Department.

- 2009-2010=\$491,540
- 2010-11=\$450,000
- 2011-2012=none
- 2012-2013=none
- 2013-2014=\$350,000
- 2014-2015=\$350,000 + Wildlife Habitat Enhancement=\$271,991

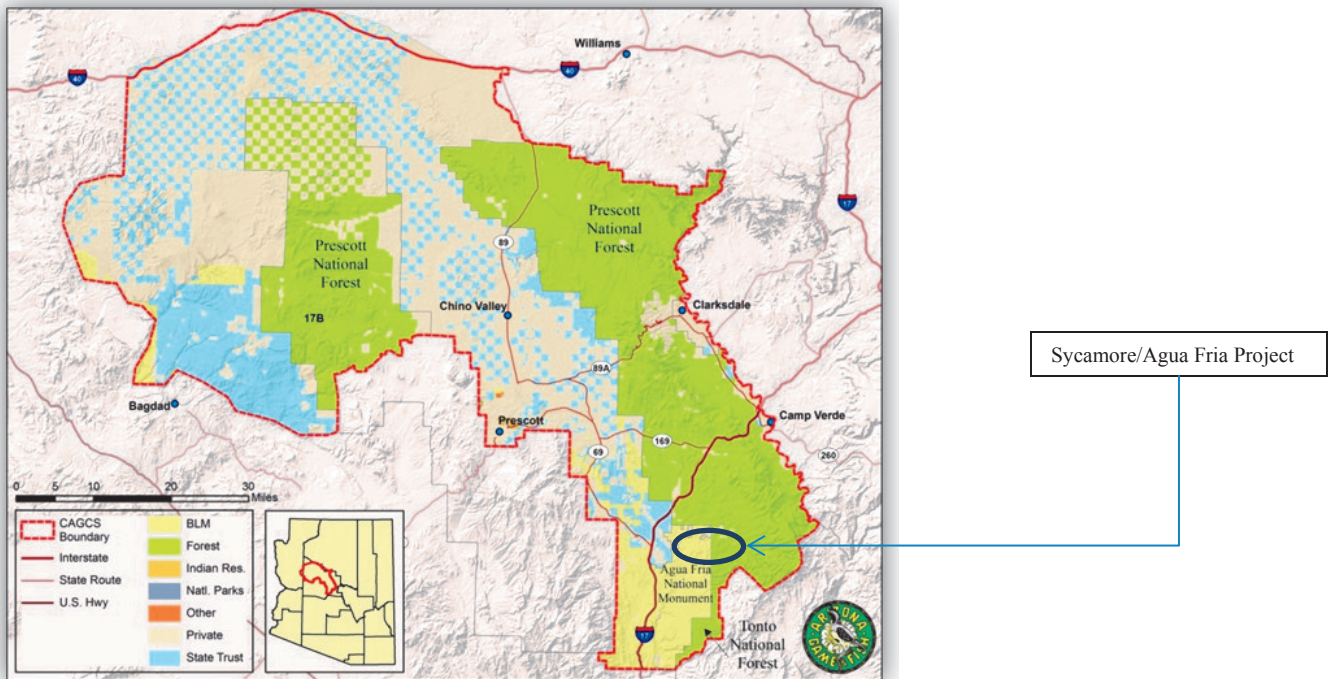
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Funding has accomplished prescribed burning, water developments, fencing modifications, juniper eradication (mastication and chainsaw treatments), database development and pronghorn telemetry. It is estimated

that over 15,254 acres of grassland habitat have been restored and enhanced for wildlife from 2010-2015. We would like to provide an example of a long running project to the North of the Phoenix area on the west side of I-17 within Game Management Unit 21.

Feature Project – Sycamore Mesa Juniper Thinning and Agua Fria Antelope Habitat Improvement



The Game Management Unit 21 pronghorn population is considered an isolated population due to the I-17 corridor and topography associated with the Verde River. I-17 separates pronghorn herds between Game Management Unit 21, Unit 19A in the Orme Ranch area, and Unit 20A in the Cordes area. Habitat connectivity between northern and southern high quality pronghorn range in GMU 21 was being threatened by increasing juniper tree densities and invasion on mesas with open grasslands. The BLM had a priority to conduct fuels reduction activities within the area. For these reasons collaborative efforts were set in motion in 2004 between BLM and AGFD, and the project expanded onto the PNF in 2009. This project continues to move forward to date.

Today, 65% of the project has been completed, a total of 4268 acres out of a current target of 6796 for treatment. Chainsaw cutting and pile burning of juniper trees has been conducted within prioritized “units” in phases as funding becomes available; 25 out of 37 units have been completed(see below summary map). The Arizona Game and Fish Department has invested over \$1,087,943 (including \$130,000 Department of Interior Healthy Lands Initiative funding from BLM) on juniper thinning contracts to date for this project. The PNF and

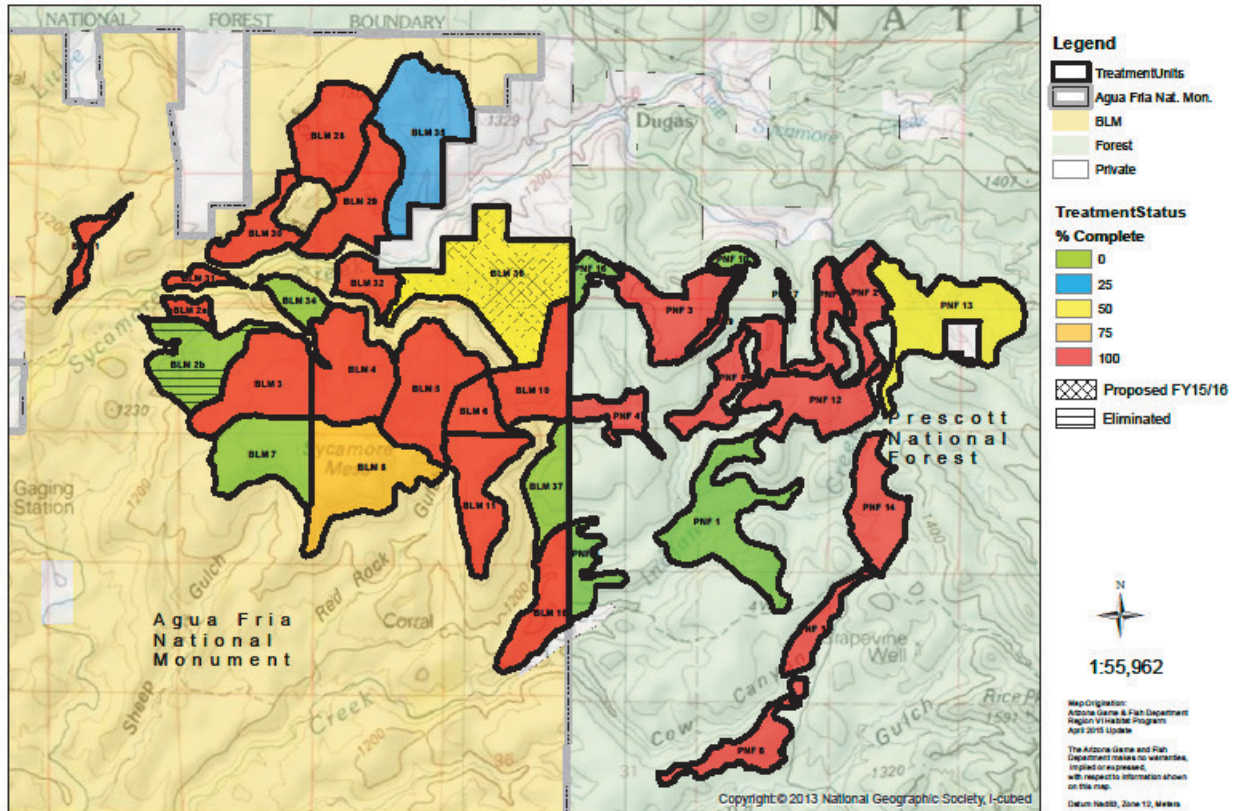
BLM have invested significant financial resources towards project planning and management, as well as manpower and expertise to conduct the follow-up pile burning. The overall running average cost of treatments is approximately ~\$261.00/acre for juniper thinning and ~\$49.00/acre for pile burning.

The treatment specifications vary somewhat between units, but have generally included the following:

- Grassland Treatment: 0-1 trees/acre
- Woodland/Savannah Treatment: 2-5 trees/acre
- Cut stumps as low as feasible; below green limbs; stumps not >15"
- Pile slash on stumps in preparation for burning
- 25% lop & scatter 75% pile; Pile more slash in densely stocked areas; scatter more slash in high erosion areas
- Reduce slash to not >18" in height and 3" in diameter; scatter broadly; branches >3" should be piled
- Retain mixed age class; retain healthy tree-form juniper
- Retain good shade trees for livestock and wildlife; retain large snags/monarch trees for wildlife
- Drainage buffers to protect watershed and T&E species associated with perennial streams

(Continued on page 13)

GMU 21 Sycamore Mesa Juniper Thinning Project (BLM) and Agua Fria Antelope Habitat Improvement Project (PNF)



Photos: Unit 28 Before and after treatments to open up the landscape for connectivity and provide access to water



Photos: Unit 28 Before and after treatments to open up the landscape for connectivity and provide access to water

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In Closing:

We have provided this overview to share information, gain interest and highlight one of the landscape scale restoration efforts the Arizona Game and Fish Department is committed to for wildlife. As plans continue to develop and are implemented, we hope to continue to share our progress in restoring and enhancing central Arizona grasslands for wildlife. So, in moving forward into the 2015-2016 budget cycle, the CAGCS has been allotted another \$350,000 through the Arizona Game and Fish Department and will be implementing ~2,300

acres for treatment (hand cutting for juniper, mesquite eradication and fire), provide funds for further development of our geospatial decision support tool and convert a well to solar. The BLM and PNF will also be providing funding for treatment efforts. In addition, the Implementation Team will continue to request and pursue additional funding sources.



2015 Fundraising Banquet

Thanks to all of our Banquet Volunteers and Donors

Richard Acosta
Arizona Cardinals
Arizona Coyotes
Arizona Diamondbacks
Arizona Wildlife Federation
Dr. Tom Boggess
Bonded Materials
Art & Susan Boswell
C2 Tactical
Phil Carson
Continental Divide Knives - John Toner
Eddy & Karen Corona
Glen & Betty Dickens
Tom Goulette
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Joe Bill Pickrell
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Terry Schupp
Signature Taxidermy - Heidi Favour
Al & Marsha Sue
Tice Supplee
Connie & Rose Taylor
Jim & Tracy Unmacht
Mike Wondrash
Ron & Karen Yee
Zulu Nyala





SONORAN PRONGHORN UPDATE



BY JILL BRIGHT AZ GAME & FISH
APRIL 2015

Captive Breeding:

Cabeza Prieta Captive Breeding Pen

There are 55 adults and yearlings and 20 fawns currently in the pen. With the hot weather, the pen biologists discovered that there have been 2 coyotes in the pen that were recorded on automatic cameras at the waters. It is possible one or both of them have been in the pen since the fences were down during the last monsoon season. There was also some damage to the fences including breaking and shorting out the electric fences after 0.75 inches of rain fell overnight on May 15. We suspect the coyotes have killed quite a few fawns. We've been able to remove one of the coyotes and are working on getting the other one out. We've also photographed three mountain lions (most likely a female and two yearling offspring) near the pen recently.

The pronghorn were treated for 5 days (May 28 – June 2) with Corid by adding it to a water source. Corid is used to treat intestinal parasites.

The pen biologists are seeing an increase in illegal aliens and/or smuggler activity at and near the pen. Two people, likely smugglers or scouts, were photographed in the pen getting water from one of the water troughs. One biologist ran into another suspicious subject while checking the perimeter fence. There is also increasing damage and vandalism to the irrigation lines, causing a lot of extra repair work to keep water going to the pen. The repairs are costly and time consuming to complete properly. Similar problems have plagued our Lower Well Forage Enhancement Plot for the last several years.

May 2015

NORTH HALF		SOUTH HALF	
Adult Females	10	Adult Females	13
Yearling Females (<i>b</i> 2014)	5	Yearling Females (<i>b</i> 2014)	8
Breeding Buck (<i>from wild, L Yellow 55</i>)	1	Breeding Buck (<i>b</i> 2013, L Black 8)	1
Back-up Buck (<i>b</i> 2013, L Blue 52)	1	Buck (<i>b</i> 2013, Black collar)	1
Yearling Bucks (<i>b</i> 2014)	8	Yearling Bucks (<i>b</i> 2014)	7
Fawns (born 2015)	6	Fawns (born 2015)	14
TOTAL	31	TOTAL	44
Total Pen	75		

Kofa Captive Breeding Pen

There are 47 pronghorn in the Kofa pen; 31 adults and yearlings and 16 fawns. All the fawns appear healthy, and most have been weaned and are feeding on their own. One of the yearling does may still be pregnant. The pen has greened up since the last rain, and is the greenest it's been for most of the year. However, the ocotillo leaves are already

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starting to turn yellow. A large capacity water pump was replaced with the help of an electrician. The pump is necessary to pressurize the irrigation pipe. The crew has been irrigating in the pen to try to keep it green. The pen biologists have also been working on getting the electric fence back up to full power and after replacing the energizers it is working again as it should. The pronghorn were treated with Corid for intestinal parasites May 24 – 29.

Kofa Pen

May 2015	
Adult Females	12
Yearling Females (b 2014)	11
Adult Males	4
Yearling Males (b 2014)	4
Fawns (born 2015)	16
TOTAL	47

2014 Released Pronghorn - Cabeza

The pronghorn released last year have been using the same general areas of Organ Pipe Cactus NM and the Mohawk Valley.

2014 Released Pronghorn - KOFA

The 20 remaining pronghorn released on Kofa have broken up into several smaller groups. Thirteen animals are using King Valley, and YPG. Many have been observed in the vicinity of Clancy Tank Water. Five pronghorn still remain in the Palomas Plain area. Of the three females that had moved east, one has come back to the Palomas Plain area, but the other two have moved back east to the same general area they were before, north and west of Signal Mountain. We have documented movements of at least 60 linear miles from the original release site. The buck that had moved east has come back to the King Valley area and was last seen near SWTR pond on YPG.

Water Projects: With recent rain on both Cabeza and Kofa, most of our 16 waters are full or nearly full.

Forage Enhancements: Nothing new to report. Irrigation of the plots is unnecessary due to good to excellent forage conditions.

Wild Pronghorn Cabeza/ORPI/BMGR Herd: The pronghorn are mostly using the same general areas. Twenty-two fawns were seen on the last flight. Most of the range received an additional ¾ to 1+ inch of rain in mid-May and the entire range is still green and forage conditions appear good to excellent. A buck, born in the pen in 2012, and released in December 2013 on ORPI, was found dead on ORPI. His collar malfunctioned and did not set off the mortality signal. The buck’s location was not substantially different between bi-weekly telemetry flights, indicating a possible mortality. Cause of death is unknown due to the length of time between when he died and when he was found on the ground.

Wild Pronghorn KOFA Herd (prior to 2014 releases):): The pronghorn on Kofa are in several groups, using King Valley on Kofa, the areas around the pen, and the southern part of King Valley on YPG. Four fawns were seen on the last telemetry flight. Habitat conditions vary, but are much better in most areas now due to the recent rains.





SHORT SHOTS

MARK YOUR CALENDAR

June 27th Prescott or Unit 7 Project
August 15th Unit 7 Project
September 19th Bonita Project

ARIZONA BIG GAME SUPER RAFFLE

The AAF is a founding partner of this program. Each year, ticket purchases raise funds that go directly into managing pronghorn. During its 9 year history, nearly \$4.3 million has been raised for wildlife, \$350,580 for pronghorn alone. AAF participates in the Habitat Partnership Committee, which decides how these funds are utilized for the management of pronghorn antelope in Arizona.

Sales are ending soon, and winners will be drawn on July 23, 2015 at AZ Game & Fish Headquarters on Carefree Highway in Phoenix. Hurry and purchase online by July 12th for your chance at the hunt of a lifetime and support this beautiful species!

WWW.ARIZONABIGGAMESUPERRAFFLE.COM

HUNTING ANTELOPE THIS FALL?

First of all, CONGRATULATIONS! There are a number of resources available to assist you to plan what may be a once in a lifetime hunt.

While our 2015 Hunter Clinic has already taken place, the AAF received a grant from AZSFWC to film our 2013 Clinic and the 5-part video can be viewed on Vimeo. It is restricted to AAF members, please contact us at info@azantelope.org to obtain the passcode.

The 2015 edition of "Hunt Arizona," the Arizona Game and Fish Department's yearly compilation of big and small game hunting statistics, is now available online at <https://azgfdportal.az.gov/Hunting/surveydata>.

The free, downloadable, PDF publication includes information on distribution, life history and behavior of big game, small game and other wildlife.

See our 10 Commandments for Better Antelope Hunting to the right.

Finally, we would love to hear your stories and see photos of your hunt. Contact us at info@azantelope.org.

TEN COMMANDMENTS FOR BETTER ANTELOPE HUNTING

1. Be properly licensed and know the boundaries of the area in which you have a permit to hunt.
2. Be properly armed with a legal antelope hunting rifle or bow and know its capabilities.
3. Have your rifle sighted in and shoot at least one box of shells at targets at ranges from 100 to 500 yards.
4. Know what a legal antelope looks like: A buck has horns longer than its ears, a black stripe under its ear.
5. Know the vital parts, or the killing shots you have to make to make it a clean, sportsmanlike kill.
6. Be aware that you are a guest of Mother Nature and conduct yourself above the reproach of your own conscience.
7. Close all gates through which you pass, unless they are laid open back against the fence.
8. Respect the need of domestic stock and wildlife for water and make your camps well back from waterholes.
9. Remember, you are entitled to take one buck antelope if you are licensed, all others belong to fellow sportsmen.
10. Be a sportsman - remember you pass this way but once, leave a trail others will like to follow.

HAPPY & SAFE HUNTING!

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| William Cordasco, Flagstaff | Susan Morse, Jericho VT | Jim & Tracy Unmacht, New River |
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