



PRONGHORN

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ARIZONA ANTELOPE FOUNDATION, INC.

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IN THIS ISSUE

Page 3	President's Message
Page 4	Sonoita Plains Pronghorn Fawn Saturation Survey
Page 6	Pronghorn Connectivity Project North of I-40
Page 12	Summer Projects Report
Page 15	New AAF Quad
Page 16	2015 Clinic Report
Page 17	Shopping Benefits the AAF
Page 17	2015 Tag Fund Report
Page 17	Sportman's Value Mapping Project
Page 18	Membership Update
Page 19	Annual Meeting
Page 19	Elections and Mail in Ballot

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

Thanks to Linda Kennedy of the National Audubon Society's Appleton-Whittell Research Ranch for providing this shot. Linda frequently observes antelope near the ranch, which is located in the heart of our SE Arizona Grasslands Initiative near Elgin.

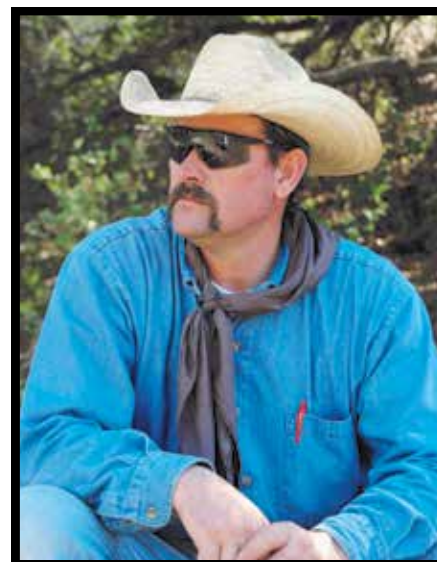
Pronghorn is a quarterly newsletter for the members of AAF. Letters, comments, news items, articles, pictures and stories are all welcome and will be considered for publication. Address all such items to: Tracy Unmacht, Pronghorn Editor, PO Box 12590, Glendale, AZ 85318, or by email at info@azantelope.org.

PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

Fall is in the air, and I hope this message finds you enjoying the many outdoor activities that make Arizona truly great. This is the time of year that reminds the dwellers of the lowland areas of the state why we live here, and for the folks in the higher elevations its only solidifies why they live there. I dug up a couple of paragraphs from a Presidents message I wrote 5 years ago, because I felt as though it needed to be revisited. When I originally wrote this article the ages of my children listed below were 12 and 10. My son Cade is about to turn 18 and my daughter is bearing down on 16. This is important because it seems like yesterday that I wrote this article. Ernest Hemingway said: "There are some things which cannot be learned quickly, and time, which is all we have, must be paid heavily for their acquiring. They are the very simplest things and because it takes a man's life to know them, the little new that each man gets from life is very costly and the only heritage he has to leave." Enjoy the next two paragraphs and in them realize that as time truly does fly, the contradictory truth is that some things never change.

Whenever talk of hunting heritage comes up I immediately think of my kids (Cade 12 and Maci 10). The youth are truly our hunting heritage, and it is our duty to **"train our replacements"**. The more youth we introduce to hunting and the outdoors the more adults we will have in the future fighting to save the animals and the way of life we hold so dearly. As the number of adult hunters declines, fewer youth are taking their place. According to a report from the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, while the U.S. population rose significantly in the past decade, the number of adult hunters declined by 7 percent, to 13 million nationwide. This number will continue to decline if this generation of hunters doesn't do something about it. There are many ways to do this, and each kid will have a different "formula" that gets them excited. The key is to make it fun! Before they're old enough to hunt, you can teach them about the trees and the local wildlife. Sit in the back yard and watch the birds. There are steps you can take while your child is very young to peak their curiosity about the outdoors. The more they learn, the more they'll want to know. Do what you can to get them away from the concrete and steel. If you teach them to appreciate all that the land has to offer an early age, they'll never stray too far. The time you invest today will pay dividends in the future. I have always said "kids only go wrong if they don't ingest enough campfire smoke". **Continue the legacy!!**

Although the number of hunters overall has dropped, the number of female hunters has actually risen thanks to programs like the National Wild Turkey Federation's Women in the Outdoors and the state-sponsored Be-



coming an Outdoors-Woman (BOW), which introduce women to outdoor activities such as hunting and fishing. Since many children are growing up in single-family homes, it's often left up to the mothers to teach their children about the outdoors. For this reason, it's more important now than ever to get women involved in outdoor activities. The key to introducing women to the outdoors is to make their first experience fun and pleasant. Don't expect women to fall madly in love with hunting after the first experience. Developing an interest in a sport often takes time. Expose your wife or girlfriend to the outdoors when the weather is pleasant. Don't take her out in bitterly cold weather or in other foul conditions. The weather can be the determining factor of whether or not she has a good time. Take her somewhere where she'll see a lot of wildlife. If she doesn't want take a shot during her first hunt, don't push her. Just remember, this experience is for her, not for you. If a nice buck walks right in front of your stand, and she doesn't want to shoot it, just let it pass. You can easily ruin the hunting experience for her by putting too much pressure on her to perform. Let her take it at her pace. The most important thing is that she enjoys the experience because a positive first hunt can help build a good base of interest. Again, this is part of good stewardship, by increasing the numbers of those who believe in conservation.

May your fall be pleasant and bountiful, and may you hear the call of conservation.

Shane Stewart, President

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

SONOITA PLAINS PRONGHORN FAWN SATURATION SURVEY

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



On Saturday and Sunday June 13-14, 2015 Arizona Game and Fish Department (AGFD) personnel led by Sector Wildlife Manager Supervisor Brad Fulk with volunteers from the Arizona Antelope Foundation conducted our third annual Sonoita Plains pronghorn fawn "Saturation" survey. This entails stationing as many separate observers as possible across all of the occupied pronghorn habitat in a game management unit from the crack of dawn until 10AM and observing and classifying all of pronghorn observed and their exact locations. This time of year is when pronghorn does are at are at their peak of fawning activity. The usual AGFD aerial pronghorn survey is conducted in the month of August statewide so this ground survey is in addition to the normal pronghorn survey schedule.

In the previous two years this was a one day exercise

but with the expanding population and to ensure as accurate a count as possible a second survey day was added. Day one included surveying both game management units 34A and B, east and west of Highway 83 and north of Highway 82. The results were very good with 119 total pronghorn observed and a fawn success of 44%. This area had just 48 pronghorn before we began our multi-faceted SE Arizona Pronghorn Initiative in 2012. Day two included surveying both game management units 35A and B south of Highway 82 and north of the Canelo Hills. The results were stunning with 144 total pronghorn observed and a fawn success of 85%. This area had just 33 pronghorn before we began our multi-faceted SE Arizona Pronghorn Initiative in 2012. It had near zero fawn recruitment from 2009 to 2011.

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So the population has increased from 81 to a minimum of 263 in a three year time interval. Multiple factors are at play here to explain these positive population increases and all of them are key activities of our National Fish and Wildlife Foundation and Habitat Partnership funded 6-year grant for our Southeastern Arizona Pronghorn/Grassland Improvement Initiative. Those key elements include all of the following:

1. Multiple burns/grassland restoration/mesquite removal
2. Fence modification improving both connectivity/permeability (56 miles to date)
3. Permanent water improvements and distribution (20+)
4. Targeted site-specific seasonal coyote reduction
5. Population augmentation from New Mexico/Arizona in 2013, 25 total
6. Positive winter moisture in 2014/2015
7. Steady fawn recruitment each of the previous 3 years regardless of moisture fluctuations

In addition to the above population numbers the AGFD August flight survey for 35A/B South the San Rafael Valley counted an additional 40 animals for a combined minimum population of 303 pronghorn in all of units 34 and 35 A&B.

The San Rafael Valley had just 9 adult pronghorn remaining in 2012 and received a supplemental release of 17 New Mexico pronghorn in January 2013 increasing the base population to 26 animals. Thus at least 13 fawns have been added in since the 2013 release. This number while well below herd objective gives hope that the “herd memory” developed in this key habitat can be maintained.

Unit	Bucks	Does	Fawns	Total	Buck:Doe	Fawn %
34 A/B	24	66	29	119	36/100	44
35 A/B	24	65	55	144	37/100	85
34/35 Totals	48	131	84	263	37/100	63
San Rafael Valley	7	25	8	40	28/100	32

While this survey result is both gratifying and frankly much needed for all of us involved we still have two more major highway fence projects on Highways 82 and 83 to be completed in April of 2016 and 2017 respectively. This to bring the Sonoita Plains to the 90%

habitat connectivity goal we set for ourselves some 4 years ago.

As of July AAF grant funded Field Projects Manager John Millican has shifted his work activities from units 34/35 and is already hard at work meeting landowners, ranchers and lessees in the Bonita/Allen Flat areas of units 31/32. Utilizing similar grant activities and landowner/lessee cooperation over the next 3 years we hope to see similar population increases above the current minimum population number of 142 observed on the AGFD August flight survey.

The AAF would like to thank Bill Brake and AL Wilcox of the Rose Tree Ranch for hosting camp, and Brad Fulk for providing meals for the survey weekend. We would also like to thank AAF’s volunteers at each and every project, the local key private ranch owner’s cooperation and the dedicated efforts of the local AGFD personnel, without which we could not have achieved any of these positive results!



Photos by Linda Kennedy, National Audubon Society

A DATA-DRIVEN APPROACH TO RECONNECTING PRONGHORN POPULATIONS NORTH OF I-40; COLLABORATION AT ITS BEST

BY JEFF GAGNON, CHAD LOBERGER, AND SCOTT SPRAGUE
AZ GAME & FISH DEPARTMENT WILDLIFE CONTRACTS BRANCH

Background:

It is no secret that roads are a major barrier to pronghorn connectivity, particularly as traffic volumes increase. Fences can also significantly impede pronghorn movements. When the two are combined, they generally form an impermeable barrier. This widely used combination does not bode well for pronghorn in Arizona, or other areas throughout the west, where right-of-way fences line most roads to prevent livestock from entering the roadway. While this fragments the habitat of many wildlife species, pronghorn appear to be the most effected Arizona game species. Numerous Arizona studies have documented and highlighted the negative impact roads and fences have on our statewide pronghorn populations (Figure 1). If roads and fences were not bad enough, within these fragmented habitat blocks, housing and commercial developments, railroads, canals, energy infrastructure, and additional fences further confine pronghorn movements. Imagine yourself in the position of a pronghorn; you can currently drive across town to the grocery store to buy food. The next time you need food, you encounter a new wall between you and the grocery store, so instead you have to go to the local convenience store where they don't have the heart-healthy foods your doctor recommended. During your next food trip, you guessed it, another wall blocks the convenience store and you have to borrow food from your neighbors. Eventually, you are confined to your own home trying unsuccessfully to survive off of what is available to you. This is what is happening to Arizona's pronghorn herds.

To ensure pronghorn population persistence, proper planning for development is key. Transportation planning can include wildlife crossings that render roads, railways, and canals permeable to wildlife, and city, county and community planning can incorporate open spaces that provide wildlife with travel corridors to connect habitat patches. However, many of these planning improvements are in the distant future, so managing resources that are within our control today will help ensure that our current pronghorn populations can take advantage of those future planning efforts. To help our current pronghorn populations persist, fences can be modified, grasslands can be restored, water can be made available, and the list goes on..... In all cases, the cooperation and collaboration of multiple stakeholders is

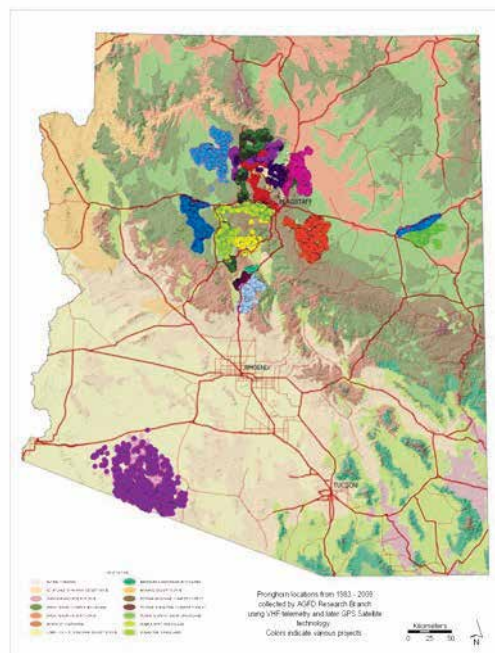


Fig. 1: – Map of statewide GPS and VHF Telemetry pronghorn studies, each color represents a different study, note the separation of pronghorn studies by highways.

required to help get today's pronghorn to tomorrow.

The Reconnecting Pronghorn North of I-40 Project is a data-driven project that focuses on restoring and enhancing pronghorn movements across roads and fences. With the cooperation and collaboration of multiple stakeholders, this project continues to gain momentum.

The US 89 Pronghorn Movement Study:

With the understanding that an upgrade of US 89 from a primarily 2-lane to a 4-lane divided highway would further fragmenting pronghorn populations in this area, ADOT agreed to fund a pronghorn movement study. This study would help identify locations for wildlife crossings in pronghorn habitat along US 89. In 2007-2008, AGFD collared 37 pronghorn: half on the west side of US 89 and half on the east side. For two years, these collars collected locations approximately every 2 hours and ultimately, collectively obtained 121,000 GPS locations (Figure 2).

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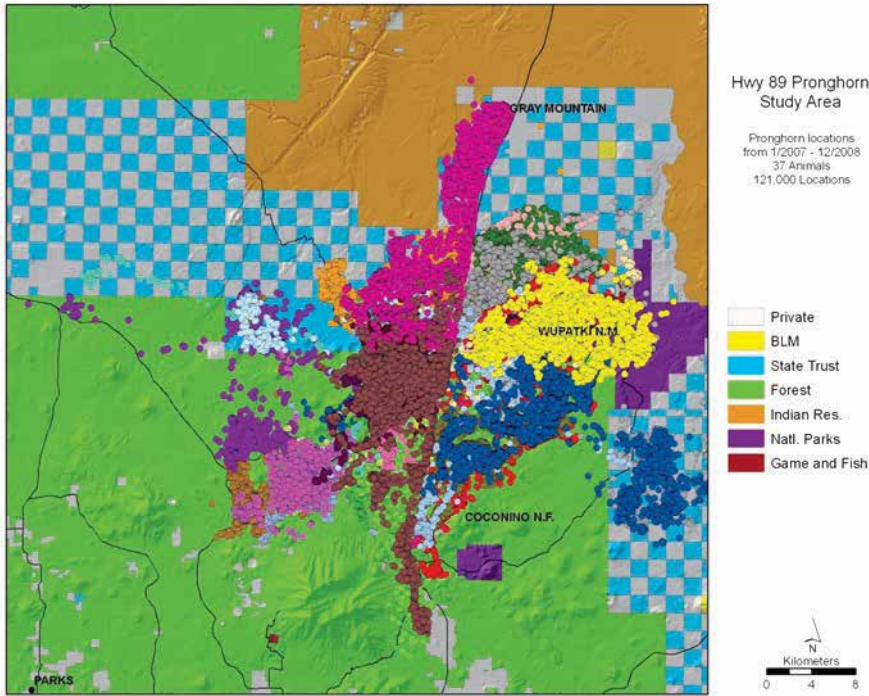


Fig. 2: Map of 37 pronghorn captured along US Highway 89 to identify the location of wildlife crossings to allow pronghorn and other wildlife to cross under or over the road safely.

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We Need to Act Fast:

As the remaining GPS data came in from the 2007-2008 US 89 study and was combined with the 2009-2010 data, it became clear that US 89 was an almost impermeable pronghorn barrier: only one pronghorn ventured across US 89 for a day, while the 36 others stayed on the side of the road in which they were captured for the entire two year study (Figure 3). During the US 89 pronghorn movement study, AGFD also collected genetics samples from captured animals and from tissues submitted by successful pronghorn hunters. AGFD worked with Northern Arizona University to evaluate these genetic samples and came to some startling con-

clusions. North of I-40, the pronghorn populations on either side of major roadways (US 89, SR 64, and to some degree US 180) were genetically different from one another and this difference was more pronounced across roadways with higher traffic volumes. While it was already known that these roads restricted pronghorn access to resources and escape routes, this study made it clear that even subpopulations with sufficient resources faced the potential for inbreeding and the host of health implications it carries. If genetic diversity begins to fall away, the viability of local pronghorn herds could be in serious jeopardy. While the US 89 pronghorn movement study was initially intended to identify pronghorn cross-

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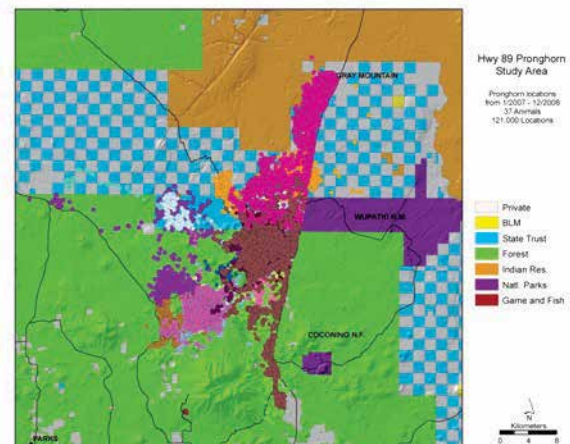
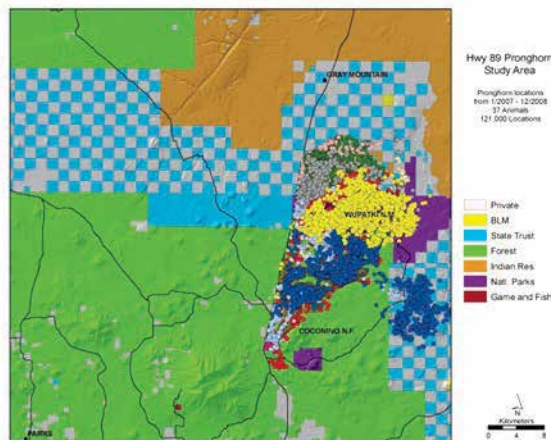


Fig. 3. GPS locations of 37 pronghorn captured on the east and west side of US 89 during a study to identify wildlife crossing locations (e.g. underpasses or overpasses). Note the distinct barrier to pronghorn movements associated with the highway.

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ing locations along US 89 for future transportation designers, these crossings were decades away. In the interim, something needed to be done to preserve the current pronghorn population, and fast.

The Pilot Study:

Early on during the US 89 pronghorn movement study, AGFD researchers recovered four collars from pronghorn mortalities. When the GPS data from these collars was analyzed, it indicated that fenced roads and pastures in the area around US 89 were severely limiting the movements of pronghorn; their habitat was sectioned into small fragments. (Figure 4). Previous AGFD and NPS research had identified US 89 as a major barrier for pronghorn, however the data from these four collars not only corroborated that impact but revealed that fences separate from highways impacted pronghorn movements as well. Combined, the research data left little room for doubt.

Armed with this powerful data (Figure 3), AGFD approached ADOT, Wupatki National Monument (NM), Babbitt Ranches, and the Coconino National Forest (CNF) to discuss managing two resources that are in our control today: modifying the CNF boundary fences that borders Wupatki NM and the Babbitt's CO Bar Ranch and removing the right-of-way fencing within Wupatki NM. Wupatki NM boundary fence already kept livestock off the monument and subsequently also kept them off of the section of US 89 that passes through it. The unnecessary right-of-way fence could be totally removed and the boundary fence could be modified to increase pronghorn permeability while keeping cattle

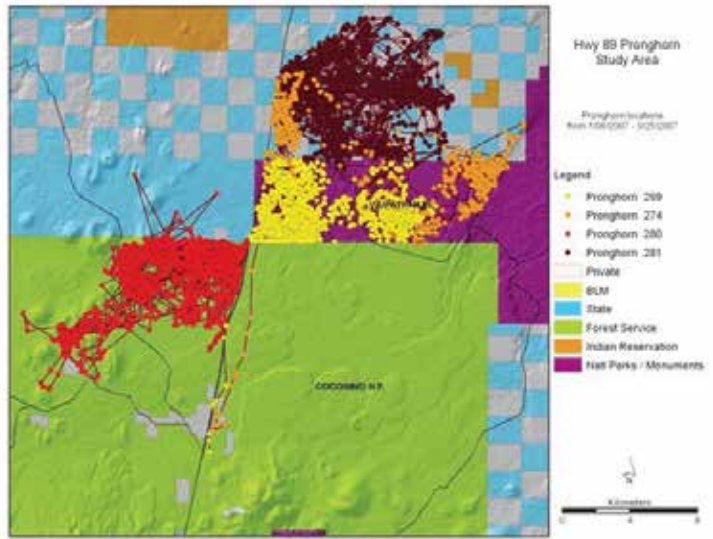


Fig. 4: Map of GPS movements from the first four pronghorn collars recovered during the US 89 pronghorn movement study. Note fragmentation caused by both the road and pasture fences.

out. To allow pronghorn to pass under the boundary fence, the bottom fence wire would be raised to a height of 16” and be smooth, not barbed. The success of this type of modification is well documented. As for the right-of-way fence, people have long thought that having a right-of-way fence farther from lower traffic volume roads would allow pronghorn to successfully cross the component barriers (fence, road, and fence again) one at a time by “staging” between the barriers as opposed to attempting to cross all 3 barriers at once (Figure 5). In fact, Babbitt Ranches worked with ADOT and AGFD several years earlier to implement this concept along a stretch of US 180 and it had anecdotal success. This concept however, has had very little testing. After a number of discussions, the partners worked to

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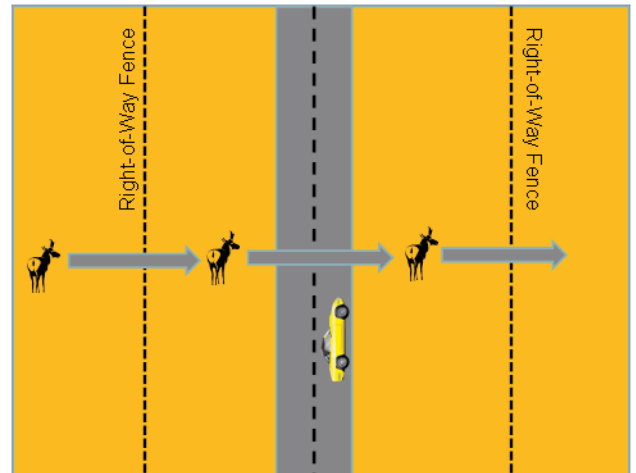
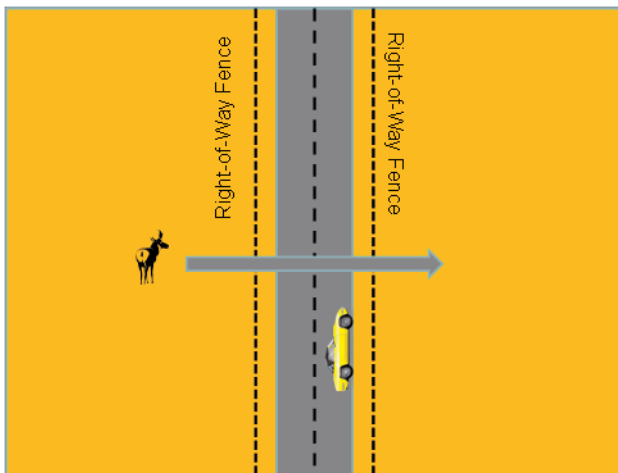


Figure 5: Pulling fences back from roads allows pronghorn to “stage” between barriers to movement (fence, road, and fence again) increasing movements across fence roads.

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gether to remove and modify several stretches of fences in and around Wupatki NM, including removal of the right-of-way fence through Wupatki NM and modifications of the Wupatki NM, Coconino National Forest and CO Bar boundary fences.

Rallying the Troops:

In November 2011, AGFD met with NPS, ADOT, CNF, and Babbitt Ranches to reveal the pilot studies success at moving pronghorn across US 89 and Wupatki NM, CNF, and CO Bar boundary fences. Along with these positive results, AGFD shared the negative results of the genetic testing. The group agreed that something needed to be done; and that something was connecting pronghorn populations across the roads and fences north of I-40. However, with miles and miles of roads and fences covering such a large area, their next question was “Where do we start?” The answer came from the pronghorn themselves: the mapped pronghorn collar data from all previous studies allowed the group to actually see the locations where their resources and efforts would do the most good in the shortest amount of time (Figure 7). Bill Cordasco, manager of the CO Bar Ranch, ended the meeting with the signing of “goat

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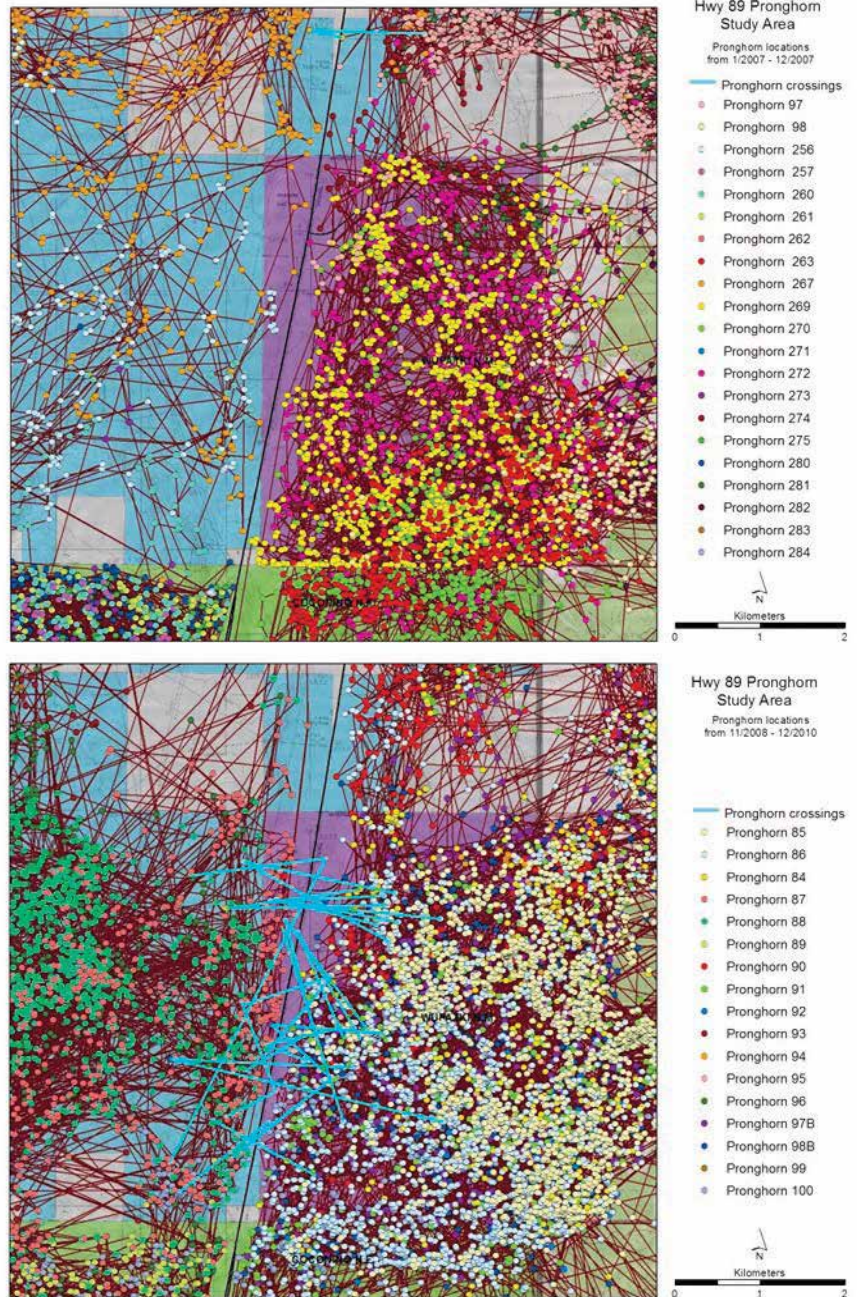
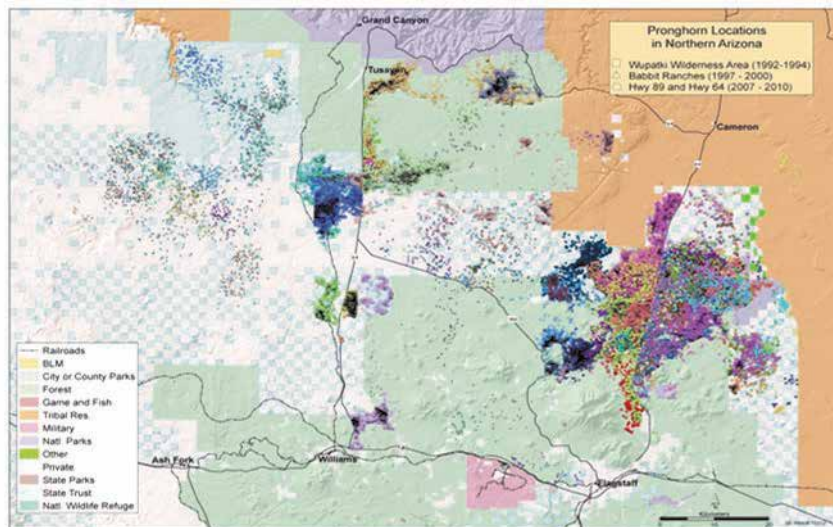


Fig. 6 Above: Movements of pronghorn in the Wupatki National Monument area before (top) and after (bottom) fence modifications and removal projects on Wupatki NM, Coconino National Forest, CO Bar Ranch. Highlighted lines indicate pronghorn movements across US 89. Also note the increase in movements paralleling the highway.

Fig 7 left: GPS and VHF telemetry data for all AGFD pronghorn projects north of I-40 used to pinpoint locations for fence modifications and removal.



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bars” (lengths of PVC used to modify the bottom wires of fences to allow pronghorn to easily pass underneath) to document the group’s commitment. Sharpies were passed out, the goat bars were signed, and the group dispersed to gather funding and people for this monumental task.

Implementation – The Hard Part:

Although the idea of connecting pronghorn populations north of I-40 sounded great, the amount of effort and funding required to actually do it was daunting. The support and hard work of many would be required. AGFD assumed the role of project manager and started seeking further support by sharing research results and the project’s goals with ranchers, landowners and stakeholder groups. Meanwhile, in order to determine the location and condition of additional fences, the major land owners and managers (CNF, KNF, NPS and CO Bar) started the process of inventorying miles and miles of their fences. These inventories were added to the pronghorn collar data map and were paramount in identifying additional barriers to further focus the group’s efforts.

Finding additional partners for the project was paramount to its success. In Arizona, when the welfare of pronghorn is at stake, the Arizona Antelope Foundation is considered a lifeline. In January 2012, AGFD presented the project to the AAF Board. Without hesitation, AAF committed to two summer work days per year for 2013-2015 (and recently extended their commitment to 2016 - so stay tuned) and approved HPC dollars to fund various aspects of the project. For the first AAF work day in the summer of 2013, AAF brought in 50+ volunteers. With support from the permittees, AGFD and CNF led these AAF volunteers and the Friends of Northern Arizona Forests (FoNAF) to complete the first pronghorn roadside project at Kendrick Park. The project removed some pronghorn-unfriendly US 180 right-of-way fencing and some obsolete pasture fence in the area. This first project was quickly followed by the second 2013 AAF workday, which saw volunteers removing another unfriendly right-of-way fence, this time along US 89 on the CNF near Sacred Mountain and on CO Bar Ranch north of Wupatki (Figure 8). Multiple projects soon followed, and four years after the kickoff meeting, projects continue to be planned and completed (Figure 9). Along the way, these projects would not



Volunteers removing right-of-way fencing along US 89 north of Flagstaff during an AAF summer workday (Photos courtesy of Betty Dickens).



Figure 9: Location of completed fence projects for the Pronghorn North of I-40 Connectivity Project.

have been possible without AAF (50+ volunteers per workday!) and the multitude of partners that have stepped up to assist with funding and/or good ol’ fashioned hard work (see “partners and their roles”). As of September 1, 2015, we have modified, removed, or built (pronghorn friendly of course) over 47 miles of fencing. And the planning, coordination, and collaboration continues.

But Will it Work?:

Based on years of knowledge of what does and does not work for pronghorn and their movements, anecdotal information, and results from the pilot study, there is a high likelihood that pronghorn movements north of I-40 will be enhanced. However, this high likelihood would only be a guess and guessing wasn’t good enough for AGFD and its partners. Pronghorn need to be collared. With funding from multiple partners, AGFD placed

(Continued on page 11)

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GPS collars on 59 pronghorn across the study area in the fall and winter of 2014 and will collar an additional 31 during the winter 2015. These collars will collect and store GPS locations every two hours for three years and at the end of this time period the data will be collected and analyzed. Only then will we know if these projects, which got their start as a big idea four years ago, succeeded in connecting pronghorn habitat north of I-40. However, since three years is a long time to wait, a handful of the deployed pronghorn collars have the ability to transmit their data while still on the pronghorn. This preliminary data, which is retrieved by AGFD regularly, is showing how pronghorn movements correlate with a few of the recent projects (Figure 10).

Partners and Their Roles:

To date, cash and in-kind contributions to the Reconnecting Pronghorn North of I-40 Project are approximately \$700,000. Multiple entities have played roles in keeping this project moving toward success, these include:

- *Arizona Antelope Foundation* - Two volunteer days a year for at least four years along with the approval of HPC funds for the past three years and support for funding in 2016.
- *Arizona Game and Fish Department* – Financial support through discretionary, Big Game Donations, HPC, and use of Wildlife Restoration funds. Assistance from Development Branch through equipment, supplies, implementation, and logistics. Assistance and support from Regional personnel through volunteer efforts and landowner coordination.
- *Arizona Department of Transportation* – Approval of locations, completion of encroachment permits, warning signs where needed, long-term commitment to maintenance of right-of-way fencing. Purchase of collars for post-construction evaluation. Cleanup of materials by maintenance personnel and other efforts in the field.
- *Coconino National Forest* – Cooperative agreement with funding for AGFD to implement fence modifications, personnel time for fence inventories, required NEPA and associated surveys, modification efforts by CNF personnel, coordination with permittees, and fence supplies where needed.

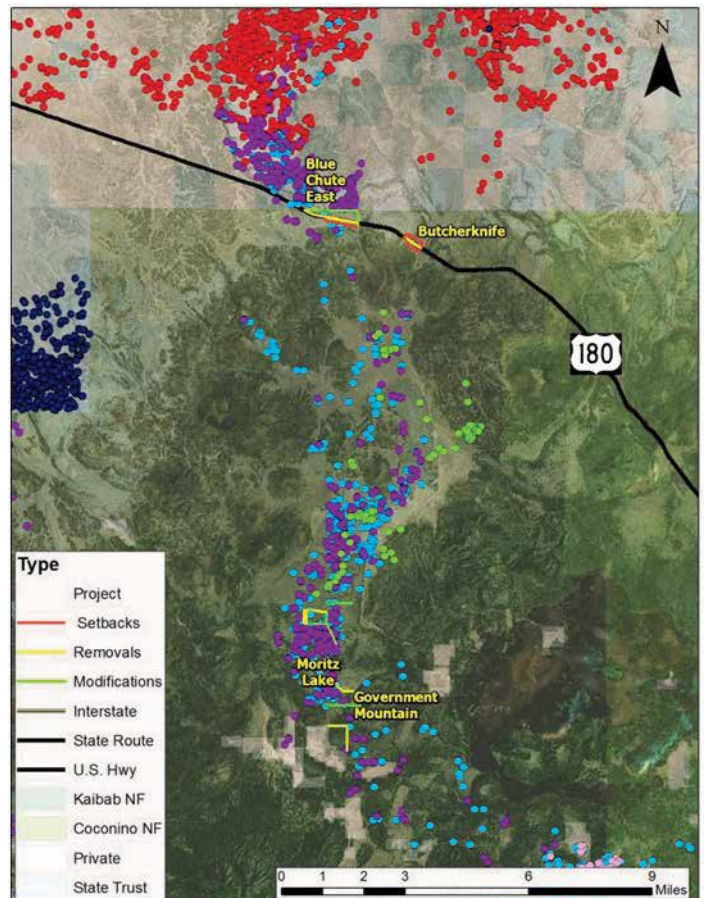


Fig 10: Preliminary GPS data from current pronghorn collars and location of AAF projects on the Kaibab National Forest from 2014-2015.

- *Kaibab National Forest* - Additional GPS collars to document success and determine future project locations for both fence and grassland restoration efforts, required NEPA and associated surveys, modification efforts by KNF personnel, coordination with permittees, and fence supplies where needed.
- *Flagstaff Area NPS (Wupatki, Sunset Crater, Grand Canyon)* – Ongoing fence modifications in and around the National Parks and Monuments, continued fence inventories, NEPA where needed, a Cooperative Agreement with funding for AGFD to continue modifications to facilitate pronghorn movements, compare post-treatment pronghorn movements to prior data, and identify additional movement corridors for future conservation efforts.
- *Babbitt's CO Bar Ranch* – Construction of multiple miles of pronghorn friendly fencing along US 89 and 180, continued modification of pasture fences within CO Bar to facilitate pronghorn movements.
- *US Fish and Wildlife Service* – Funding support through the Wildlife and Sportfish Restoration Programs

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- *Friends of Northern Arizona Forests* – Multiple volunteer workdays to assist with both roadside and pasture fences. Commitment for continued work on fences on the CNF in future years.
- *American Conservation Experience* – Volunteers for multiple projects
- *National Forest Foundation* – Funding for fence materials. In-kind contributions from CNF along with AAF workdays helped leverage these funds.
- *Arizona Sportsman for Wildlife Conservation* – Funding for fence materials and construction.
- *Arizona Wildlife Federation* – Funding for fence materials and construction.
- *Eagle Scouts* – Multiple volunteer projects.
- *NAU Wildlife Society* – Assistance on volunteer efforts.
- *Winslow Prison* – Assistance building new wildlife friendly fence at Kendrick Park.
- Multiple permittees including *Babbitts* and *Nagillers* cooperation and allowing fences to be pulled back from the road to facilitate pronghorn movements.

Other Efforts to Support Pronghorn North of I-40:

As most of you know, there are more factors to pronghorn survival and abundance, or lack thereof, than just roads and fences. A holistic approach is needed for ultimate success and long-term benefits for pronghorn. A great example of this type of approach can be seen in a concurrent project in southern Arizona near Sonoita (see AAF Pronghorn Issue 4th Quarter 2014). In addition to

fence modifications, grassland restoration has become a key focus for KNF, CNF, and CO Bar Ranch, additional juniper removal is planned or underway to restore and reconnect grasslands. For example, the KNF has restored a number of areas between US 180, SR 64, and I-40. In addition to these grassland restoration projects, water is another obvious concern that is being addressed through the repair and replacement of water catchments and pipelines.

The Even Bigger Picture:

Not many folks know that pronghorn migrate from an area just south of the Grand Canyon all the way down to the Parks and Flagstaff area before being stopped at I-40. This corridor was documented with VHF telemetry nearly two decades ago. Even fewer know that pronghorn from the areas around Camp Navajo and Parks on the south side of I-40 make their way all the way down to Chino Valley and Jerome. Picture this.....pronghorn moving freely from the Grand Canyon to Chino Valley. This would require that pronghorn get across I-40, and it is well known that pronghorn will not readily pass underneath a highway. Getting pronghorn across major highways seemed like a relatively difficult task until recently. Researchers in Wyoming have had the opportunity to monitor wildlife crossings in pronghorn habitat and after documenting nearly 20,000 pronghorn crossings have determined pronghorn will use overpasses. Some hope for the future. In the meantime Kaibab National Forest Biologists and personnel are working with AGFD and stakeholders to enhance the pronghorn corridor identified south of I-40.

PROJECT REPORT

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

Two major projects were completed by over 78 volunteers on June 27th and August 15th in Game Management Unit 7 northwest of Flagstaff. The first project in June was north of Kendrick Park and involved two elements. The first was on an ADOT right-of-way adjacent to highway 180 between Flagstaff and Grand Canyon where we removed 1 mile of old highway fence. The second element was the modification of 3 miles of Pasture fence south of Maverick Butte on the Coconino Forest. Our second project in August was in the Government Prairie area 10 miles northeast of Williams where we modified or removed nearly 3 miles of fence

including complete removal of more than a mile of sheep fence on the Kaibab Forest.

This season three effort is in support of the Arizona Game and Fish Departments Pronghorn Connectivity North of Interstate- 40 Project. Research studies have shown that moving the highway right-of-way fences back 300 feet from the roadway immediately improves pronghorn crossing busy roadways and improve opportunities for local pronghorn to get water, forage and improve genetic diversity. A 3-year update on this study is

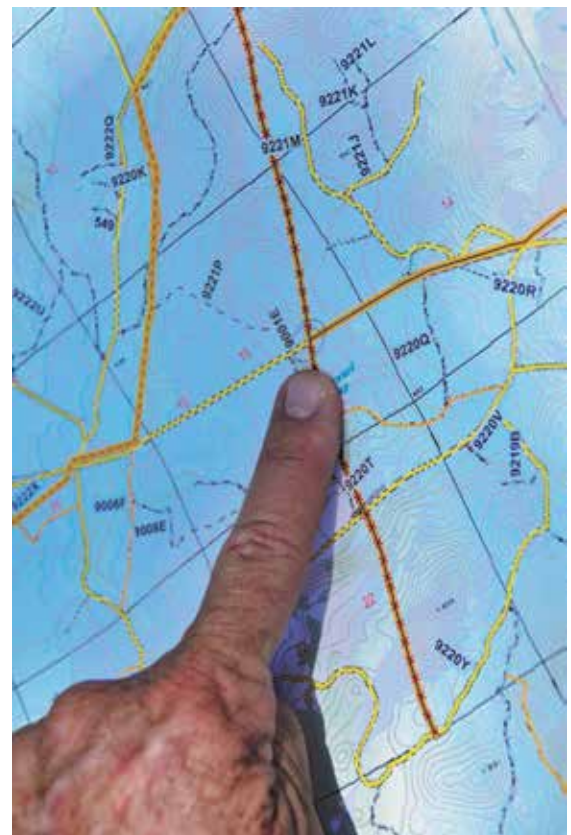
(Continued on page 14)





(Continued from page 12)

featured in this issue of the Pronghorn. All volunteer work hours and mileage were used as in-kind match for an approved and funded 2015 AAF-AGFD North of I-40 Pronghorn Corridor Connectivity Habitat Partnership Project. All activities and coordination were supervised by AGFD Project leader Jeff Gagnon, Senior Research Biologist Scott Sprague, Kaibab Forest Wildlife Biologist Roger Joos and Coconino Wildlife Biologist Carey Thompson.



(Continued from page 14)

Thanks to our cooks Steve Rusiecki and Betty Dickens for the June project and Bill and Mary Keebler at the August project, photographers Betty Dickens and Richard Ockenfels and all of our project volunteers: Richard Acosta, Ward Arnston, Ron Bauman, Gary Boyer, Debby Branch, Tom Britt, Ray Blanchard, Brenen Clark, Kevin Clark, Tom Collins, Dave Cruce, Glen Dickens, Hendrick Fenaux, Bonnie Glenn, Jerry Guevin, John Hamill, Matt Hankins, John Hansen, Ian Harrison, Daris Hayes, Jim Hayes, Keith Heimes, Wendy Holliday, Maya Holliday, Lian Holliday, Sherry Kapaldo, Ann Keeley, Tovia Keeley, Maynard Keenan, Dan & Ann Kells, Nick Koressel, Dave Laird, Jay

Leadabrand, Tom Mackin, Jim Mc Casland, Sue Moeller, Ken Morris, Mikaela Morris, Jamie Paul, Joe Bill Pickrell, Earl Polvent, Michelle Richman, Jason Roler, Steve Rusiecki, Paul Sandstrom, Seth Saffe, Kaelyn Simonsen, Bill Spicer, Tice Supplee, Steve Sutherland, Jake Sutherland, Brian Taylor, Connie Taylor, Glen Toepfer, Neil Tweordy, Bill Waters, Shannon Whitehat, Gretchen Wolfe, Beckett Zeigler, Guy Zeigler. Agency personnel included Jeff Gagnon, Scott Sprague, Troy Christensen, Chad Loberger, Allen Baroli, Amber Bail Will Lemon and Kari Ogren of AZGF, and Roger Joos, Travis Largent, Carey Thompson and Maynard Keenan of the USFS.

ART & ROSANNE PORTER DONATE QUAD

For those of you who have been around for a while, I'm sure you remember the old days when our only means of taking out old strands of barbed wire meant hand rolling and carrying out of the field. Several years ago we added wire rolling machines to our toolbox which cut the time required to roll wire exponentially. Most projects we are blessed to have wonderful volunteers who bring their quads to mount and haul the wire rollers around. But since they aren't always available, the AAF decided it was time to purchase its own quad and began soliciting cash donations. Art & Rosanne went a step further and donated this beautiful machine! We can't express enough thanks to the Porter's for making this donation!



2015 HUNTER CLINIC

Our 23rd Annual Hunter's Clinic took place on June 13th at AZ Game & Fish headquarters. Over 50 hunters and their guests were treated to a wide variety of presentations on subjects important to the outcome of their upcoming hunts. Cody Nelson of the Outdoorsmans presented the latest on optics and glassing techniques, Glen Dickens provided tips on trophy evaluation, Craig Steele presented techniques for archery hunting, Jim McCasland provided insights on rifle hunting, Rick Lopez reviewed trophy care and taxidermy and Richard Ockenfels presented the best tips for capturing images of the hunt.



In addition to the formal presentations, representatives of the five AG&FD regions with antelope hunts this fall were on hand to discuss the specific hotspots in the game management units drawn by the hunters in the audience.

- Region 1 Tyler Richins
- Region 2 Tom McCall
- Region 3 Virginia Gouldsbury
- Region 5 Devin Skinner
- Region 6 Micah White



Thanks to all of the volunteer presenters, and to the AZ Game & Fish Department for use of their facilities. They provided the perfect setting for our event!

Photos by Richard Ockenfels





SHORT SHOTS

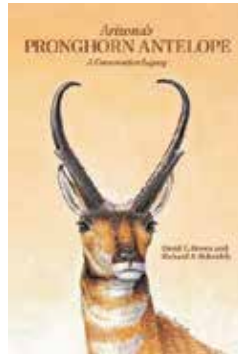
HOW SHOPPING CAN HELP THE AAF

Hard to believe, but the holidays are just around the corner and we have the perfect gift for the sportsman or woman conservationist on your shopping list!

*“Arizona’s Pronghorn
Antelope – A
Conservation Legacy”*

By David Brown and Richard Ockenfels

Get your copy today!
Soft cover copies: \$15.00
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Shop at AmazonSmile
and Amazon will make
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We’d also like to remind you there are several rewards programs that can earn money for the AAF while you shop. When you shop at AmazonSmile, Amazon will donate to the AAF every time you shop. Just logon to AmazonSmile

with your regular Amazon shopping profile and select the AAF as your designated charity.

SIGN UP YOUR FRY’S CARD.
FRY’S WILL DONATE A
PORTION OF PURCHASES



Similarly, you can link your Fry’s VIP card to their Community Rewards Program and Fry’s will donate a percentage to the AAF. It’s easy - sign in to your Fry’s account, click on the Community Rewards tab, look for and click on the Enroll Now button. On the

next screen enter our name in the search bar and then select us and enroll. Once you’re enrolled, you’ll earn rewards for us every time you shop and use your V.I.P Card!

OPERATION GAME THIEF
1-800-352-0700
24 HOURS A DAY

SPECIAL TAG FUND FOR 2015

One of the most successful habitat improvement programs has been those financed by raising money through the issuing of special pronghorn tags. All of the monies obtained through the sale or raffle of these tags are used solely for the management of the species. In 2015, these tags raised nearly \$110,000 for pronghorn. The AAF takes part in the decision making process for expenditures from these funds.

\$37,000 Tag Auctioned at AAF Banquet
\$29,000 Tag Auctioned at WSF Banquet
\$43,840 AZ Big Game Super Raffle

SPORTSMAN’S VALUE MAPPING

Arizona’s sportsmen and sportswomen will have an opportunity to help conserve their favorite public hunting and fishing destinations by participating in the Sportsman’s Values Mapping Project, a statewide effort being launched by the Theodore Roosevelt Conservation Partnership and the Arizona Game and Fish Department, in cooperation with several state sportsmen’s groups.

A random sample of individuals who have purchased hunting and fishing licenses will receive an invitation to participate in the survey by directing them to a website that allows them to draw their favorite areas on a map.

“The department is pleased to present a scientifically-sound method for outdoor enthusiasts to tell us what areas of the state are important to their wildlife-related recreation,” said Dr. Loren Chase, human dimensions program manager for Game and Fish. “This is an opportunity for Arizonans to participate in some innovative citizen-science research, so I would encourage anyone who receives a postcard in the mail to take a few minutes to participate.”

That input will be combined and assembled in a geographic information system (GIS), where it will be overlaid with maps of critical habitat, migration routes, land ownership and other data. The resulting maps will provide important and previously unavailable data to state and federal agencies. “We are seeking the help of sportsmen and sportswomen to identify lands that are cherished for their hunting and fishing values, where the conservation and restoration of habitat and the enhancement of public access should be a priority.” said TRCP state field rep John Hamill.

MEMBERSHIP

LIFE MEMBERS

- | | | |
|----------------------------------|------------------------------------|-----------------------------------|
| 1. Art Pearce, Phoenix | 21. George Welsh, Kingman | 41. Will Garrison, Peoria |
| 2. Jim Mehen, Flagstaff | 22. Matthew Massey, Gilbert | 42. Tom Waddell, New Mexico |
| 3. Larry D. Adams, Bullhead City | 23. Don Parks, Peoria | 43. Josiah Austin, Pearce |
| 4. James K. McCasland, | 24. Bill & Kerrie Jacoby, Chandler | 44. Connie Taylor, Mesa |
| 5. Nina Gammons, Payette, ID | 25. Adam Geotzl, Cottonwood | 45. Mark Boswell, Mesa |
| 6. Nancy Lewis, Phoenix | 26. Shane Stewart, Gilbert | 46. Jessica R. Pearce, Scottsdale |
| 7. Pete Cimellaro, Phoenix | 27. Don Davidson, Mesa | 47. Douglas Hartzler, Phoenix |
| 8. Jerry Weiers, Phoenix | 28. Terry Petko, Mesa | 48. Karen LaFrance, Phoenix |
| 9. Harry Carlson, Phoenix | 29. Gary M. Johnson, Phoenix | 49. Kurt Schulz, Waddell |
| 10. David Brown, Phoenix | 30. Richard Guenzel, Laramie WY | 50. Walt Scrimgeour |
| 11. Art Boswell, Tucson | 31. Randy Cherington, Scottsdale | 51. Clifford Nystrom |
| 12. Charlie Kelly, Scottsdale | 32. Joe Del Re, Chandler | 52. Jon Coppa, Patagonia |
| 13. Chrissy Weiers, Phoenix | 33. Bob Walker, Phoenix | 53. Neal Brown, Phoenix |
| 14. Al Sue, Scottsdale | 34. Cookie Nicoson, Williams | 54. Tice Supplee, Phoenix |
| 15. Mary Keebler, Happy Jack | 35. Tim Blank, Mesa | 55. Richard Miller, Flagstaff |
| 16. Bill Keebler, Happy Jack | 36. Jodi Stewart, Gilbert | 56. William Cullins, Chandler |
| 17. James Stewart, Phoenix | 37. Keith Joyner, Scottsdale | 57. Robert Neal Bushong, Yuma |
| 18. Terry Schupp, Tempe | 38. David Hussey, Cave Creek | 58. Art & Rosanne Porter |
| 19. Dale Hislop, Calgary Canada | 39. Susan Pearce, Tucson | 59. Matt McNeil, Chandler |
| 20. Mick Rusing, Tucson | 40. Glen Dickens, Tucson | |

SUSTAINING MEMBERS

- | | | |
|------------------------------|---------------------------------|--------------------------------|
| Bill Cole, Glendale | Randy Gaskill, Show Low | Derek Oyen, Anthem |
| Thomas Collins, Prescott | Roger & Ilene Hailey, Flagstaff | Bob & Judy Prosser, Winslow |
| William Cordasco, Flagstaff | Susan Morse, Jericho VT | Jim & Tracy Unmacht, New River |
| Linda Dightmon, Peoria | Keith Newlon, Sierra Vista | David L. Wolf, Flagstaff |
| Michael Domanico, Scottsdale | Richard Ockenfels, Mayer | |

FAMILY MEMBERS

- | | | |
|-----------------------------------|-----------------------------------|---------------------------------|
| Jim & Rita Ammons, Yuma | Mike Gauman, Queen Creek | James Sivley, Scottsdale |
| Robin & Billie Bechtel, Show Low | Brian George, Scottsdale | William & Jan Skibbe, Tucson |
| Bruce & Vicki Belman, Flagstaff | Panos Gianneotis, Surprise | Cam & Kitty Smith, Prescott |
| Richard & Julia Chabak, Glendale | David Justice, Prescott | Barry Sopher, Tucson |
| Ken & Kathy Cook, Casa Grande | Dave & Sue Laird, White Mtn Lake | Michael Tindle, Mesa |
| Paul & Joann Delaney, Flagstaff | Kathi & Mark Nixon, Phoenix | Christopher Vallejos, Flagstaff |
| Brian & Dorothy Dolan, Tucson | Amy & Stephen Ostwinkle, Chandler | Steven Wilson, Chandler |
| Ron & Sharon Eichelberger, Alpine | Brad & Dana Remfrey, Gilbert | Jim Wood, Glendale |
| Chad & Andrea Elliott, Ehrenberg | Daniel Robinett, Elgin | |
| Duane Evans, Glendale | David & Debra Scott, Surprise | |

NEW MEMBERS

- | | | |
|------------------------|----------------------------|---------------------|
| Jim deVos, Dewey | David Hicks, Tucson | Eric Sparks, Tucson |
| Clay Hernandez, Tucson | Abram Obermueller, Herford | |

ANNUAL MEETING

Election of Officers and Directors

NOVEMBER 16, 2015 6:30 PM
BASS PRO SHOPS 1133 N DOBSON RD MESA, AZ 85201

We encourage you to attend, and if you are a member in good standing, cast your vote for the 2016 Officers and Directors. Each Individual, Sustaining, or Life Member, or Family as a whole is entitled to one vote for each item if current with their dues. If you are unable to attend you may use the form below to vote by mail. Please note, at time of publication the Treasurer position is open. Our administrator performs the bookkeeping work - the Treasurer's duties include monitoring those activities. Contact Brian George at 480-946-5209 for more information.

Officers:

President, Brian George
Vice President, Glen Dickens
Secretary, Eddy Corona
Treasurer, **OPEN POSITION**

Directors with terms ending 12/31/17:

Ken Meadors
Tice Supplee
Connie Taylor

Incumbent Directors completing 2nd year of 2-year term ending on December 31, 2016

Dave Cruce ♦ Terry Schupp ♦ Al Sue

Mail Ballot

Mark an X next to the candidate(s) you wish to vote for below.

Officers & Directors:

President, Brian George Vice President, Glen Dickens

Secretary, Eddy Corona Treasurer, **OPEN POSITION**

Directors with terms ending 12/31/16:

Ken Meadors

Tice Supplee

Connie Taylor

Printed Name: _____

Signed: _____ Date: _____

Mail to: AZ Antelope Foundation ♦ Attn: Elections ♦ PO Box 12590 ♦ Glendale AZ 85318



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NOT A MEMBER? JOIN TODAY!

Join (or renew) now and help the Arizona Antelope Foundation in its efforts to fund and provide the manpower necessary to finance pronghorn research, enhance and improve pronghorn habitat, encourage and assist in pronghorn transplants to historic habitat, and replenish existing herds. Your commitment will not only ensure that you will continue to be able to enjoy one of Arizona's most magnificent animals, it will also ensure that your children and your children's children will have the opportunity to be able to enjoy pronghorn.

Contributions to the Foundation are tax deductible, as the Foundation is a 501(c)(3) organization.

Complete the form below and send with your payment to our mailing address. You can also join/renew online with your credit card. It's easy to do. Just visit the Membership page on our website, www.azantelope.org

----- ✂ ----- ✂ -----

Name _____

Address _____

City, State, Zip _____

Phone _____

Email _____

- Regular Membership.....\$ 40.00 Per Yr.
- Family Membership.....\$ 60.00 Per Yr.
- Sustaining Membership.....\$ 100.00 Per Yr.
- Life Membership
 - Age 59 and **YOUNGER**.....\$1000.00
 - Age 60-66.....\$ 750.00
 - Age 67 and **OLDER**.....\$ 500.00

New Member Renewal

Method of Payment: <input type="checkbox"/> Cash <input type="checkbox"/> Check	
<input type="checkbox"/> VISA <input type="checkbox"/> Master Card <input type="checkbox"/> Discover	
Amount Enclosed \$ _____	
Credit Card # _____	
Expiration _____	3-digit Security Code _____
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