



PRONGHORN

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Volume 17 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

AAF Member Terry Hern- don provides us with another fun photo. He named this shot "The Three Sisters", which was taken several years ago in Unit 18A.

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

PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE



As I write this month's message I am on my way from the Wallow fire to the new Monument fire near Sierra Vista. My company has been deployed on the Horseshoe 2, Murphy Complex, Wallow and now to the Monument fires to establish commu-

nications for the personnel fighting these fires. It is very saddening to watch this much of our beautiful state going up in flames. But I will say after seeing this much fire this year, that this will for many acres be for the better. Much of the areas I have seen have been burned by a "cool" fire, and as soon as we start to get our monsoon season rains will come back very quickly. Fire is a natural part of any ecosystem and in most cases helps to enhance forest health. Many of you may have heard rumors of wildlife being lost in the fire. I have heard no reports of any loss. In fact, I

have personally witnessed how fire isn't as horrific to wildlife as the Bambi movie would have you think. I have witnessed elk and antelope feeding and bedding within 300 yards of active fire. The saddest fact behind all of these wildfires is that they were most likely caused by humans. Natural causes being limited to lightning, meteors and lava narrows the cause of these down to human causes. Not properly extinguishing a campfire or carelessly disposing of a cigarette, turns a very small action into a monumental event. I would ask that as many of you enjoy the outdoors this summer, that you be diligent in putting out your campfires.

As we move forward and get containment of these fires the true impact they will have is yet to be determined. I assure you there will be areas that will require our attention to help restore. AAF will stay on top of these issues and will remain diligent in helping to do our part to help restore these areas. Please keep all of the firefighters and personnel battling these fires in your prayers, the work they do is tough to say the least.

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

Shane Stewart



PROJECT REPORT MAY 2011 BY TICE SUPPLEE, AAF PAST PRESIDENT

The last weekend of April and May Day (May 1st) offered perfect weather for our project at Horseshoe Ranch on the Agua Fria National Monument. Arizona Antelope Foundation and the Arizona Wildlife Federation organized a fence modification work project as a part of the Arizona Game and Fish Commission Conservation Committee weekend meeting. They had selected Horseshoe Ranch, a long term AAF Adopt-A-Ranch for the meeting as Arizona Game and Fish had recently acquired the ranch.

Our day began with a hearty breakfast prepared by Girl Scout Troop # 9, AWF volunteer Ryna Rock and

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SOUTHEASTERN ARIZONA PRONGHORN FIELD TRIP

BY GLEN DICKENS, LIFE MEMBER & 2011 AAF DIRECTOR



ON April 2 and 3 the Arizona Antelope Foundation (AAF) conducted a field trip in southeastern Arizona to view 5 of the regions 7 Pronghorn population areas and to look at a private property possible future release site. This field trip was discussed and planned for at the AAF Board's April 5, 2010 5-year strategic planning session and was a forward lead into a 5 year strategic planning focus on SE Arizona Pronghorn population habitat improvement projects by AAF, which has been ongoing since October 2010.

It began on Saturday, April 2 with 17 attendees gathering at 8:30AM in the Pima County Parks and Recreation Department parking lot and ended on Sunday 3:00 PM at the Bonita Grasslands 15 miles north of Wilcox. Speakers and presentations were made by local resource, wildlife professionals and private land owners. Discussions were all encompassing and included Pronghorn population dynamics, status, genetics, travel corridor obstacles, forage diversity, habitat treatments, mesquite removal, fragmentation and urbanization of habi-

tat, and the roles of fire and blacktailed prairie dog in long-term grassland maintenance. In addition, the importance of cooperative landowner relations, since 50% of the land Pronghorn occupy in southeastern Arizona occur on private property, and the very positive impacts of the Habitat Partnership Process and big game tag funds were discussed.

Special thanks is due to the following presenters for taking their time to drive to the various stops and educating the attendees: Kerry Baldwin Pima County Parks and Recreation, Heather Swanson BLM, Brad Fulk, Holly Hicks, Robert Fink, Duane Aubuchon, Gilbert Gonzales and John Bacorn of the Arizona Game and Fish Department (AGFD), John Millican AGFD retired, Roger Cogan Audubon Society, Brook Gebow Nature Conservancy and Coronado Forest, Andrew Leindecker Coronado Forest and rancher/landowner Mr. Homack.

Highlights of some of the key stops and discussions and photos follow.

(Continued on page 5)

BLM Empire Las Cienega

Outlined was the Grassland Restoration Program American Recovery & Re-Investment Act Mesquite Stewardship Project which began in 2005 and is doing mesquite removal with chemical and mechanical treatment using prescribed fire as the maintenance tool. The areas Resource Management Plan has identified 20,000 acres of mesquite invaded grassland that need treatment and as of 2011, 2100 acres have been treated. Resident Pronghorn are observed readily using the newly treated sections of the restored grasslands. The Pima County Sonoran Desert Conservation Plan includes portions of the Las Cienegas and 2 ranches, the Sand's and Clyne, have been acquired and will be managed for multiple use and natural resource enhancements and protection. Pima County is interested in making the portions of both ranches Pronghorn friendly.

Pronghorn were absent after 1946 from the Las Cienegas until successful reintroductions of Texas Pronghorn occurred in 1986. Present population estimate is 60-80. The majority of the habitat is secure from urbanization with most of the high quality habitat owned by the BLM. Mesquite removals and burns by the BLM are very positive and expanding pronghorn use patterns. Highways 82 and 83 have been identified as significant movement barriers and fence modifications are planned.

Blacktailed prairie dogs, another keystone grasslands species like Pronghorn, are being successfully reintroduced by the AGFD in cooperation with the State Land Department and BLM at four sites in the Las Cienegas to improve grassland health and species diver-

sity. The first release occurred in 2008 when 74 black-tailed prairie dogs were trapped at Ladder Ranch in New Mexico and released at Las Cienegas. A second site received prairie dogs in 2009 and the third site in 2010 with 64 prairie dogs. A fourth and final site is planned for 2011. Discussions centered around prairie dog ecology and their impact on mesquite invasion and grassland maintenance. Cattle and Pronghorn are regular visitors using release site number one in Pumphouse Wash, the subject of an upcoming study.



Babocomari/Rose Tree/Audubon Research Ranches:

Pronghorn were reasonably common on the 40,000 acre Babocomari Ranch, Mustang plains area when purchased by Frank Brophy senior in 1935. By 1949 there were just 4 remaining on the west boundary of Ft. Huachuca. AGFD and Fort Huachuca began restocking efforts in 1949. Today there is a herd of 18 in the Babocomari west pasture and 36 on the Rose Tree Mustang plains. The HPC process has been successfully used by the Rosetree and Babocomari Ranches to reduce shrubs, thus, restoring native grasslands. Water developments, specifically for Pronghorn have been developed on both ranches, and in October 2010 the AAF modified two key miles of the allotment boundary to antelope standards, thus ensuring an open corridor between both ranches. A lunch stop was made at the Audubon Research Ranch where Roger Cogan gave an enlightening summary of many of the projects/research currently ongoing on the ranch. For more than 30 years, the Research Ranch has protected grassland ecosystems through conservation, research, and education.

San Rafael Valley

Pronghorn habitat in the San Rafael Valley exceeds 44,000 acres of which 60% is USFS and the remainder 40% private controlled by 5 ranches. It is secure from urbanization due to public land status, open space conservation easements and landowner ethos. Extirpated by 1945, AGFD reintroductions began in 1950

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SONORAN PRONGHORN UPDATE



BY JILL BRIGHT AZ GAME & FISH
MAY 31, 2011

Captive Breeding:

The pronghorn in the pen are doing well. All the breeding age females have given birth. Typically we have a few yearlings give birth as well, but have not documented any yet this year. There are 12 fawns in the north (8 females and 4 males), and at least thirteen fawns in the south, of which at least 6 are females. Most of the fawns are joining the larger groups and are feeding from the alfalfa feeders.

On May 24, an adult female was found dead in the south half of the pen. There was no sign of predation, and she had been seen two days prior behaving normally. She was one of the original breeding stock put in the pen from the wild in December 2005, and was at least 8 years old. She produced and raised twin fawns for the last 5 years, but was never confirmed with any fawns this year. We took tissue samples to be analyzed for disease. It is not the time of the year that we typically see deaths from EHD or Bluetongue, but bacterial infections could be present. However, preliminary results showed no signs of disease or infection. On May 29, a doe fawn was found dead, also in the south pen. Again there was no sign of predation. Her soft tissues were completely consumed by vultures so there was nothing to take samples from.

Status of Pronghorn in Pen

(M = Male, F = Female)

	Wild pronghorn put into the pen	2005	2006	2007	2008	2009	2010	2011	Total in Pen
NORTH HALF									
In Pen	3F	1F		1F	2F	4F	7F, 4M	12 fawns	
Released	1M	4M, 1F	3M	4M, 2F	5M, 2F	5M, 5F			
From south half					2M				
To south half					1M				36
SOUTH HALF									
In Pen	4F			1F	1F	4F	10F, 7M	13 fawns	
Released			2F, 2M	1F, 2M	2F, 8M	2F, 8M			
From north half					*				
To north half					1M				40
* buck moved himself from south to north									76

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(Sonoran Pronghorn Update continued from page 6)

Released Pronghorn: We have not had any more mortality of released animals since early March. All 14 of last year's released pronghorn have now come back to the pen and are foraging around the pen in several smaller groups. One buck moves between the pen and the Lower Well forage area regularly. The two or three fawns that were seen with the first two females to come back to the pen have disappeared, likely killed by predators, as they and their mothers had access to ample forage, alfalfa and water. Two of the more recent females to come back to the pen have one fawn each (a buck and doe). Two bucks released in 2009 are also often seen around the pen with the newly released pronghorn.

Water Projects: We are planning to haul water by helicopter to two of the waters near the Sierra Pintas soon.

Forage Enhancements: We are irrigating at Charlie Bell and Granite Mountains forage plots. Several uncollared animals have been observed using Charlie Bell forage plot. We determined that due to Border Patrol concerns, it was not possible to realign the drag road that runs through Granite Mountains forage plot. Consequently, we propose to move the plot further north to get it away from the traffic on the road. We surveyed the area to the north of the existing plot and came up with a new plan. The Air Force will need to complete the necessary NEPA and cultural resources compliance to begin work on the new plot, and we will have to find funding for the new extension.

Other Projects: The FONSI for the second population at KOFA refuge has been signed and we are moving ahead with that project (see related article below).

We flagged the area for the new pen, and determined where the irrigation and waters would go. Next we need to get a fence contractor to begin building the pen. We will also be working on getting a well drilled near the pen. We are also working on establishing new pen monitor positions to work at the KOFA pen.

Wild Pronghorn: On the most recent telemetry flight, the female near Point of the Pintas was seen with one fawn, and another collared female was seen with one fawn near the Granite Mountains water. However, between both these groups, there were 8 females and we only saw 2 fawns, which doesn't look good for fawn recruitment in the wild herd this year. Two fawns were seen with groups on the BMGR North and South Tactical Ranges, although the Air Force monitors have recently been seeing up to 5 fawns. Organ Pipe biologists recently saw a group of 3 pronghorn, including one fawn there.



Two fawns in the pen. Photo by John Kulberg.

SONORAN PRONGHORN REINTRODUCTION FROM US FISH AND WILDLIFE SERVICE

The U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service (Service) announced the final rule to establish two non-essential experimental populations of the endangered Sonoran pronghorn under section 10(j) of the Endangered Species Act (ESA). This final rule will set in motion the reintroduction of Sonoran pronghorns to establish up to two new populations as envisioned by the recovery plan.

The final rule includes provisions to construct a captive breeding and release facility in King Valley on the Kofa National Wildlife Refuge in Arizona and to establish a second U.S. population of endangered Sono-

ran pronghorn. An additional future population has also been approved for Barry M. Goldwater Range (BMGR) East, a property managed by Luke Air Force Base. Arizona Game and Fish Department, working in coordination with the Service, will take the on-the-ground lead in implementing construction and eventual monitoring of pronghorn at these two new sites located in the southwest portion of the state.

"Establishing two new Sonoran pronghorn populations will advance recovery for one of North America's most imperiled land mammals," said Benja-

(Continued on page 15)

EDUCATION



Education is an important part of what we do, so the AAF tries to make appearances at as many educational events as possible. This busy spring found us at the annual AZ Game & Fish Outdoor Expo in Phoenix, where a record 37,500 attended. We also made an appearance at the Payson Wildlife Fair, which drew an estimated 2000-2500 people. We had an opportunity to talk to many people and try to educate them about antelope and what we do to help them. It is surprising the number of people who said they didn't know Arizona either had antelope or had an organization interested in working with antelope habitat.

Bill Keebler created a "skins board", and also provided an antelope skull with removable horn sheaths. Both were a hit with kids and adults alike. It was fun watching the adults guessing what animal each skin represented. Sorry guys, but the women guessed right more often, especially on the buffalo hide. Most people guessed it to be a bear. The kids all had fun touching the hides and the horns.

Thanks to all who stopped by our booths!

Photos by Richard Ockenfels

OUR READERS WANTED TO KNOW...

Is it true that the white throat markings or chevrons are unique, to the extent that they can be used to ID individual animals ?

Absolutely, in fact in the days BEFORE tagging and radios that's how individual animals were cataloged. Case in point ,the Ketchum studies of the early 70's in Idaho that showed breeding bucks actually occupied and defended territories' during May-September. His study lasted some 3 years and he used the chevrons to know it was the same individual each season.

And now you know.

2011 HUNTER CLINIC

Our 19th Annual Hunter's Clinic took place on June 11th at AZ Game & Fish headquarters in Phoenix. Over 50 hunters and their guests were treated to a wide variety of presentations on subjects important to the outcome of their upcoming hunts. Topics included Optics, Trophy Evaluation, Taxidermy, Practical Field Care, and Hunting Tactics for Firearms and Archery. 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.

A special thanks to our volunteers & presenters:

Mike Barraclough
Terry Herndon
Todd Hulm
Dave Laird
Jim McCasland
Jay Morrison
Richard Ockenfels
Tice Supplee
Jim Unmacht

AZ Game & Fish Representatives:

Region 1 Rick Langley
Region 2 Carl Lutch
Region 3 Deanna Kephart
Region 5 Mike Richins
Region 6 Jake Fousek

Also thanks to the AZ Game & Fish Department for use of their facilities. They provided the perfect setting for our event!



*Photos by
Jim Unmacht*



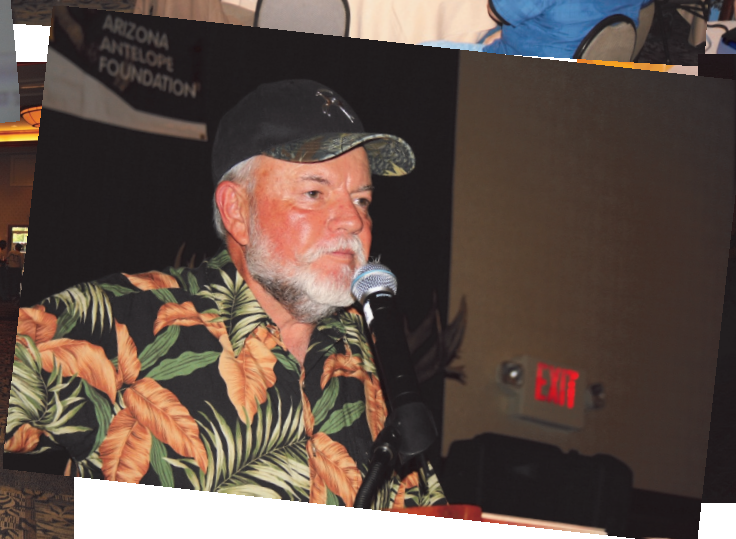


Two fine organizations - One Great Night!



Fundraising Banquet

Saturday May 21, 2011



THANKS TO OUR DONORS AND VOLUNTEERS

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 Charlie Walters, Outdoorsman's Warehouse
 Keith West, Miller's Southwest Processing
 Jimmy White, Uni-Daptor
 Wilderness Quest New Zealand
 Ronald & Karen Yee



Photos by Jim Unmacht

(Project Report continued from page 3)

AAF volunteers Mary and Bill Keebler. The task of the day was to remove excess fencing around a water lot and cattle gathering pasture located on Perry Mesa at the boundary between the BLM and USFS grazing allotments for the ranch. The site is a preferred area for the Unit 21 pronghorn antelope herd and the removal and modification to the fences should make the stock tank at the site much more accessible.

We broke up into two teams and started rolling wire. The old fences were a real hodge-podge and had up to six strands of barbed wire in some areas. We had about 40 volunteers plus BLM and AGFD. Team "A" tackled the pasture fence and Team "B" went after the fence around the stock tank, including tearing out two wing fences that had been used to haze cattle for round ups.

Former Game and Fish commissioner Mike Golightly and his family were part of the field crew and so was Donna Voyles- Director Larry Voyles' wife. Donna wields a "mean" fence pliers! Arizona Wildlife Federation mustered a good group of volunteers, including AWF president Tom Mackin. These guys attacked the wayward fence lines with a vengeance.

With the added assist of two fence rolling machines the two teams had the unwanted strands of wire rolled and packed by lunch time. Dana Warnecke, Habitat Specialist with AGFD Mesa regional office (and a key player in the acquisition of Horseshoe Ranch) had a wildlife friendly design for the fence modification that would benefit mule deer and pronghorn antelope. Both top and bottom wires are smooth and spacing distances of the middle two wires are designed to minimize chances of a hoof getting wrapped and caught.

A leapfrog work process really accelerated stringing the new wire. Work was broken up into setting new T-posts as needed, stringing the wire, tightening the strand, clipping strands to the posts, and lastly inserting the wire stays. About a mile and a half of fence line which included the entire enclosure fence around the stock tank was completed by 4:00 PM. Satisfied and weary fence workers returned to camp at Horseshoe Ranch for a delicious tri-tips

(Continued on page 13)



(Project Report continued from page 12)
dinner.

A few of the AAF board members stayed over for the Sunday Conservation Committee meeting. A very interesting and informative presentation about trends in Arizona wildlife recreation participation sparked a lively discussion. Craig McMullen then gave a presentation about the AGFD hunter and angler recruitment and retention programs followed by Joe Yarchin speaking about Watchable Wildlife. Commissioner Norm Freeman, the new chair of this committee, encouraged the enthusiasm and fresh thinking of the group. AGFD is willing to present any or all of the information we heard to conservation organizations. The survey results about wildlife recreation is particularly interesting.

If you have not participated in an AAF work project it is a great way to help pronghorn antelope and have a fun outing with the family. We would love to have you join us!

Photos by Richard Ockenfels



ANTELOPE RESCUE

FROM AAF MEMBER CLIFF AMATOR

A relative of Cliff's captured these photos of the rescue of a buck caught in a fence. Antelope can get tangled up in un-modified fences like this one and perish. Although this scene took place in New Mexico, it highlights the importance of the fence work the AAF performs here in Arizona each year. This is but one example of how your all-important membership dues can make a difference.



(Sonoran Pronghorn Reintroduction continued from page 7)

min Tuggle, Regional Director of the Service's Southwest Region. "Only nine years ago, drought nearly extirpated this species in the U.S., but through the continued, far-sighted efforts of conservation biologists, numerous federal land managers, the U.S. Air Force, Native American Tribes and the Arizona Game and Fish Department, the pronghorn will now be returning to a portion of their historical habitat in the U.S."

The Sonoran pronghorn has been protected under the ESA since 1967. The ESA provides a critical safety net for America's native fish, wildlife and plants. This landmark conservation law has prevented the extinction of hundreds of imperiled species across the nation and promoted the recovery of many others.

The final rule designating an experimental population will publish in the *Federal Register* on May 5, 2011, and become effective on June 6, 2011, designating any reestablished Sonoran pronghorn populations as an "experimental, nonessential population" – a designation under the ESA allowing for greater management flexibility in reintroducing new populations within the species' historical range. The Service has completed an environmental assessment and selected the Kofa site, historically occupied by the species, as a preferred location for reestablishing a new population to expand its range and bolster pronghorn numbers. The Luke Air Force Base commander will sign on as a cooperator in the project and final environmental assessment.

Measures to create a pronghorn breeding enclosure on the Kofa refuge will be conducted by Refuge staff and contractors with the Arizona Game and Fish Department. A core population of 11 breeding-age pronghorn will be moved to the enclosure next winter. By late 2013, up to 20 two-year old offspring are expected to be released from the facility into suitable adjacent habitat.

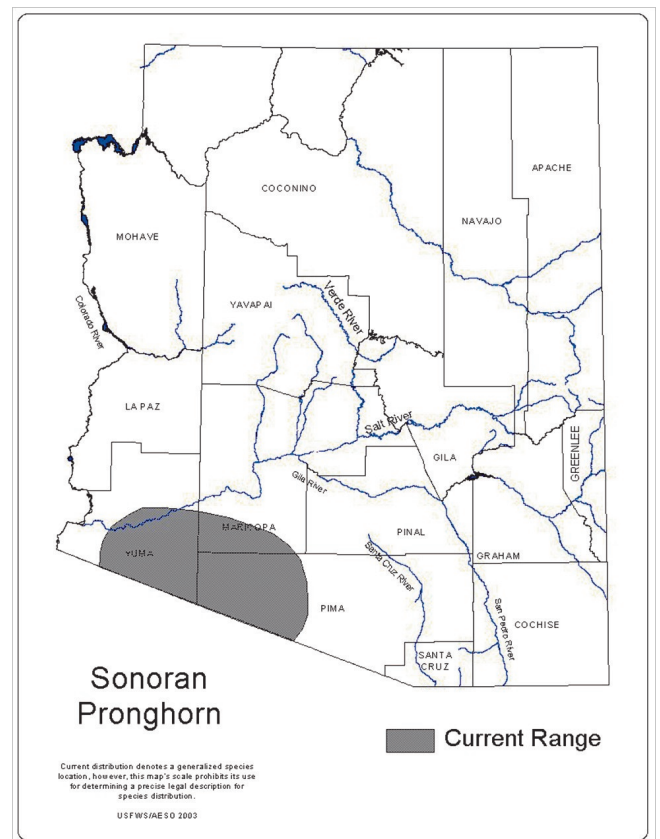
In the future, a new population will be established on BMGR-East, located east of State Route 85. Offspring reared at nearby Cabeza Prieta National Wildlife Refuge captive-breeding facility will be initially moved to a holding pen to be constructed on BMGR-East for acclimation of the animals prior to release on the site.

The Service does not expect that this action will impede border security efforts in any way and is committed to coordinating closely with U.S. Customs and Border Protection and other partners before implementing release of Sonoran pronghorns into BMGR-East.

Sonoran pronghorn originally ranged widely throughout the Sonoran Desert in southwestern Arizona and northern Mexico. The Sonoran pronghorn is extremely skittish and extremely fast. Because it uses distance and speed as protection from predators, it prefers wide open spaces.

"I am very proud of the work our agency has conducted on this species over the last 20 years. We nearly lost our herd of Sonoran pronghorn in 2002 when fewer than 20 animals remained. Fortunately, we were given a second chance at recovery, and active, aggressive, hands-on management brought this species back from the knife's edge of extirpation," said Larry Voyles, Director of the Arizona Game and Fish Department. "This project provides a good model for cooperation between state and federal wildlife agencies and the Department of Defense, who brought together the resources and expertise necessary to pull off a truly important accomplishment."

Sonoran pronghorn are now confined to an increasingly isolated and fragmented portion of their former range as a result of human settlement and associated development. Today, there are an estimated 102 animals in the U.S. limited to Barry M. Goldwater Range, Cabeza Prieta National Wildlife Refuge, Organ Pipe Cactus National Monument, Bureau of Land Management lands, and two Mexican populations totaling about 470 animals.



The full descriptions of the release plans and locations, environmental assessment, Finding of No Significant Impact (NEPA) and experimental population rule are available at [http://www.fws.gov/southwest/es/arizona/Sonoran Pronghorn.htm](http://www.fws.gov/southwest/es/arizona/Sonoran_Pronghorn.htm) or by contacting the Refuge Manager, Cabeza Prieta National Wildlife Refuge, 1611 N. Second Ave., Ajo, AZ 85321 (520-387-6483).

(SE Arizona Field Trip continued from page 5)

at the request of local rancher Marshall Ashburn. Populations reached their high in the mid-60's when Wildlife Manager John Carr reported more than 100 animals distributed from the Vaca ranch south to the Sharp Ranch, east to the Parker Canyon steppes and further east on Campini Mesa. In 2011 just 12 animals remain on the northwestern side of the Valley. Connectivity is less of a concern throughout the valley, but encroachment of juniper is fragmenting the open grassland and should be looked at as a possible management issue. Possible loss of the remaining Pronghorn is of greatest present concern. The Coronado Forest is conducting manzanita brush crushing on the eastern and western boundaries of the north end of the Valley and plan to burn in treated areas.

south into Sonora Mexico, the discussion was about higher than normal military activity in Sonora in the late 1990's and the numbers on the US side crashed. The fence is now a permanent barrier to pronghorn crossing which would be a net benefit stopping mortality in Sonora if new supplemental releases were to occur.

San Bernadino Valley/Malpai Borderlands

The Malapai Foundation is a grassroots, land-owner-driven nonprofit organization implementing ecosystem management on nearly one million acres of virtually unfragmented open-space landscape in southeastern Arizona and southwestern New Mexico. The Malpai Borderlands Group was formally organized as a non-profit organization in 1994. Their goal is to *restore and maintain the natural processes that create and pro-*



On the southwest end of the Valley attendees observed the US-Mexico Boundary crisscross metal fence which spans the entire Valley from east to west intended to prevent illegal automobile crossings. A combination chain link and other materials fence on the south side of the crisscross fence functionally stops Pronghorn crossing. At a stop at Campini Mesa in the southeastern portion of the Valley where in 1990 the herd numbered as high as 27 and used the grasslands

to protect a healthy, unfragmented landscape to support a diverse, flourishing community of human, plant and animal life in our borderlands region. Together, we will accomplish this by working to encourage profitable ranching and other traditional livelihoods, which will sustain the open space nature of our land for generations to come. Today the group carries out a series of conservation programs and activities, including land

(Continued on page 17)

(SE Arizona Field Trip continued from page 16)

restoration; endangered species habitat protection; cost-sharing range and ranch improvements; and land conservation projects, protecting 75,000 acres of private land from development through conservation easements. Through agency and private partners they have conducted prescribed fire on over 69,000 acres. Fire monitoring has shown the projects are resulting in improved ecological condition for wildlife and livestock over many thousands of acres.

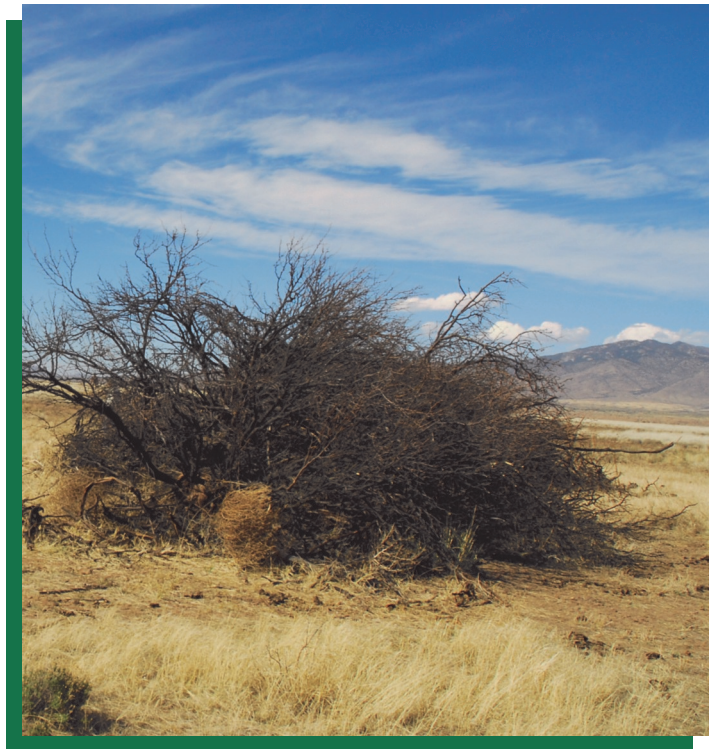
This population of Pronghorn reintroduced in 1986 is the single population in southeastern Arizona that is at population management objectives numbering between 250-300. Water distribution and accessibility is very good, and fawn survival has exceeded other populations. Old allotment boundary fences between ranches are still a significant factor limiting pronghorn movement. There are no recorded Pronghorn observations on the west side of the valley due in part to the unmodified highway 80 fences and Pronghorn were never released west of highway 80. Throughout the population area corridor improvements are the first priority for habitat improvement for Pronghorn.



Bonita Grasslands

The Bonita Grasslands is the subject of a National Resource Conservation Service (NRCS), AGFD/landowner restoration project with a goal of improving up to 10,000 acres in the next 5 years through grubbing and disposal of invasive mesquite. The entire area encompasses 180,000 acres and in 2010 some 3,000 acres were treated. Partnerships include NRCS, AGFD, Natural Resource Conservation District, US Fish and Wildlife Service, local landowners, Arizona Antelope Foundation and Southeastern Arizona Sportsman's Club (SEAZSC). Most recently an HPC project was funded in 2011 for a Homack ranch pasture 300 acre mesquite removal project. Discussions and review about different post treatments with the mesquite carcasses including burning piled small diameter trees as well as windrow-

ing into existing minor drainages for moisture retention in the upstream of the draws. In spite of the dry winter forbs and minor green up was observed upstream from the mesquite windrows.



In March 2011 in direct proximity to the field trip stop an AAF project was completed by 46 volunteers on state and private land on the Homack grazing allotment and an adjoining alfalfa field leased by another local land owner. This was a joint project sponsored by the AAF in conjunction with SEAZSC. The project weekend had three elements; the first modifying 2.5 miles of existing fence to 4 strands by removing and rolling up the 4 bottom, barbed-wire strands and replacing with smooth-wire; role up and removal of 1 mile of 8 strands of old wire from a newly built pronghorn friendly fence and; installation of 7 "goat bars" surrounding a 640 acre alfalfa field that provides forage for up to 42 pronghorn. This corridor improvement project helped ensure that resident pronghorn can travel through the smaller Bull Pasture to open grasslands surrounding the pasture to the east/west and south and have access to three newly installed water troughs. It accomplished a key portion of the overall northern Bonita Plains pronghorn travel corridor improvement project.

This population of pronghorn is significantly below population objective with predation likely a direct factor. Reintroduced in the late 1940's and early 1950's they have numbered as high as 315 animals in the 1986 survey, and with 93 observed on the 2010 surveys.

Stay tuned for future updates!

Photos by Richard Ockenfels



SHORT SHOTS

AZ BIG GAME SUPER RAFFLE

Ticket sales end **July 17th** for this chance at the hunt of a lifetime. Ten AZ Game & Fish Commissioner's tags will be awarded, along with a \$9700 Swarovski Optics package and New Mexico Trophy Elk Hunt in this drawing. Tickets are reasonably priced, giving the average person a chance at one of these coveted tags! The raffle has become very successful, bringing in millions of dollars for wildlife management. For pronghorn, it has meant an additional \$215,100 over the 5-year period since the Raffle's inception. Help support Arizona's wildlife and buy your tickets today!!

www.arizonabiggamesuperraffle.com

OUTDOOR EXPERIENCE 4 ALL BANQUET

The AAF encourages you to support one of our important partners by attending their 3rd annual fundraiser. OE4A does a wonderful job providing outdoor experiences of all kinds to children with disabilities, life threatening illnesses and other challenges.

Thursday July 21, 2011 5:30 pm -9:00 pm

Ashley Manor
1380 South Price Road
Chandler, AZ 85225

Tickets are \$70 each and include dinner, dessert, water, soft drinks, beer and wine

The Arizona Big Game Super Raffle drawing will also take place at this event. For more information contact Eddy Corona 480-529-8340 or visit the OE4A website:

www.oe4a.org

VOLUNTEERS NEEDED FOR FIRE REHAB

In the near future, the AZ Game and Fish will begin to rehabilitate portions of the habitat damaged in the recent fires. They are also planning a series of actions to maintain fishing opportunities as well as recreational access as soon as possible. Volunteers will be needed to assist, and the AZ Sportsmen for Wildlife Conservation organization will be coordinating the volunteer pool.

Projects will include things like riparian clean up and habitat restoration, which could include fence work and area cleanup, trail repair, and camping area restoration. Needs will vary and volunteers may be contacted with very little notice, timed around fire and weather conditions. If you are available to help, please send your name, address, telephone number, and your E-mail address to the contact information below. You will be placed on a volunteer list maintained by AZSFWC Director and AZ Deer Association President John Koleszar. When help is needed, John will work down the list to see who might be available for a particular project or work day.

If you can offer some time, please send your information to: John Koleszar at elkhabitat@gmail.com.

HUNTING ANTELOPE THIS FALL?

We'd love to share your success with our readers. Please send us your stories and photos for consideration in an upcoming issue of the *Pronghorn*. Make sure the photos you submit are in good taste. All blood must be removed from the animal, hunter and surrounding area. We accept digital images/stories via email at info@azantelope.org.

MARK YOUR CALENDAR

AAF PROJECTS

August 13 - Eagle Creek
October 1 - SE Arizona
April 7, 2012 - SE Arizona
October 6, 2012 - SE Arizona

OTHER EVENTS

October or November 2nd Annual Awards Banquet TBA

BOARD MEETING SCHEDULE

July 11
August 8
September 12
All meetings are at 6:30pm at El Zaribah Shrine in Phoenix

WCC MEETING SCHEDULE

July 26
August 23
September 27

MEMBERSHIP

LIFE MEMBERS

- | | | |
|----------------------------------|------------------------------------|----------------------------------|
| 1. Art Pearce, Phoenix | 15. Mary Keebler, Happy Jack | 29. Gary M. Johnson, Phoenix |
| 2. Jim Mehen, Flagstaff | 16. Bill Keebler, Happy Jack | 30. Richard Guenzel, Laramie WY |
| 3. Larry D. Adams, Bullhead City | 17. James Stewart, Phoenix | 31. Randy Cherington, Scottsdale |
| 4. James K. McCasland, | 18. Terry Schupp, Tempe | 32. Joe Del Re, Chandler |
| 5. Nina Gammons, Payette, ID | 19. Dale Hislop, Calgary Canada | 33. Bob Walker, Phoenix |
| 6. Nancy Lewis, Phoenix | 20. Mick Rusing, Tucson | 34. Cookie Nicoson, Williams |
| 7. Pete Cimellaro, Phoenix | 21. George Welsh, Kingman | 35. Tim Blank, Mesa |
| 8. Jerry Weiers, Phoenix | 22. Matthew Massey, Gilbert | 36. Jodi Stewart, Gilbert |
| 9. Harry Carlson, Phoenix | 23. Don Parks, Peoria | 37. Keith Joyner, Scottsdale |
| 10. David Brown, Phoenix | 24. Bill & Kerrie Jacoby, Chandler | 38. David Hussey, Cave Creek |
| 11. Art Boswell, Tucson | 25. Adam Geotzl, Cottonwood | 39. Susan Pearce, Tucson |
| 12. Charlie Kelly, Scottsdale | 26. Shane Stewart, Gilbert | 40. Glen Dickens, Tucson |
| 13. Chrissy Weiers, Phoenix | 27. Don Davidson, Mesa | 41. Will Garrison, Peoria |
| 14. Al Sue, Scottsdale | 28. Terry Petko, Mesa | |

SUSTAINING MEMBERS

Josiah Austin, Pearce	Eugene & Linda Dightmon, Peoria	Richard Ockenfels, Mayer
Mark Boswell, Mesa	Michael Domanico, Scottsdale	Derek Oyen, Anthem
James Bowen, Cave Creek	Randy Gaskill, Show Low	Walt Scrimgeour, Prescott
Bill Cole, Glendale	Roger Hailey, Flagstaff	Tice Supplee, Phoenix
William Cordasco, Flagstaff	Jay Morrison, Peoria	Jim & Tracy Unmacht, Phoenix
Paul & Joann Delaney, Flagstaff	Susan Morse, Jericho VT	David L. Wolf, Flagstaff

FAMILY MEMBERS

Jim & Rita Ammons, Yuma	Robert Hutchison, Overgarrd	Amy & Stephen Ostwinkle, Gilbert
Michael & Cherie Barker, Mesa	David Justice, Prescott	Daniel Robinett, Catalina
Robert Bushong, Yuma	Bill Kerr, Buckeye	David & Debra Scott, Glendale
Richard & Julia Chabak, Sun City	Dave & Sue Laird, Peoria	Joseph Silva, Tolleson
Ken & Kathy Cook, Casa Grande	Jeff & Cynthia Mason, Scottsdale	James & Joyce Sivley, Scottsdale
Brian & Dorothy Dolan, Tucson	Tom McDaniel, Phoenix	Barry Sopher, Tucson
Dave & Debbie Fisher, Prescott	Keith Newlon, Sierra Vista	Floramae & Tomas Teskey, Mayer
Ron Gerdes, Hereford		Jim Wood, Glendale

WELCOME NEW MEMBERS

Charlie Cornett, Ft. Huachuca	Joshua Heddon, Phoenix	John Kellogg, Buckeye
David Ellis, Prescott Valley	Joe & Chris Heilman, Surprise	Joe Peto, Tucson
Ed Fischer, Phoenix	Tanner Henry	Barry Smith, Glendale
Chris Hannah, Scottsdale	Jim Hughens, Waddell	Gordon Toncheff, Phoenix

CONGRATULATIONS!

**TO OUR NEWEST LIFE MEMBERS:
GLEN DICKENS
AND
WILL GARRISON**