



PRONGHORN

3rd Quarter 2023
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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

Our AAF Williams fence project kitchen in action with our perennial project cooks Mary and Bill Keebler officiating. See article and more photos pages 4-7,

Photos courtesy Jamie Watkins

Pronghorn is a quarterly magazine for the members of AAF. Letters, comments, news items, articles, pictures and stories are all welcome and will be considered for publication. Address all such items to: Lenée Landis, Pronghorn Editor, PO Box 1191, Mesa AZ 85211 or by email at info@azantelope.org.

PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

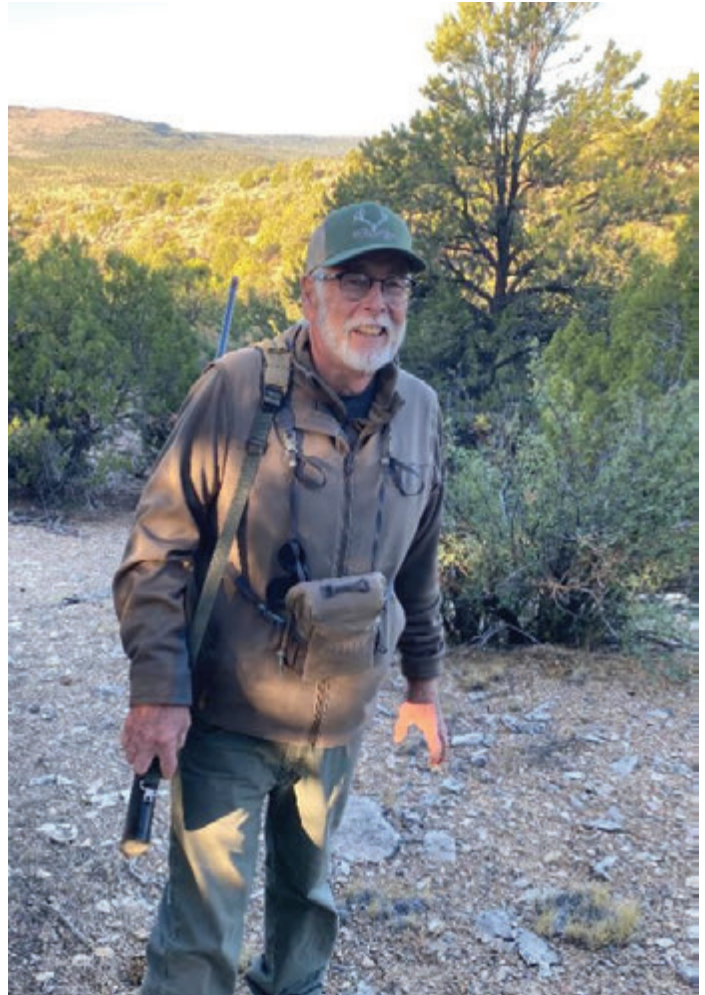
Welcome to the 3rd Quarter issue of the Pronghorn. I hope all of you tag holders were successful. It should have been a good year for horn growth and the number of animals. From some of the data I've seen the fawn success rates in some units are up. So here is hoping for a good winter of moisture so that we see an increase in the number of antelope next year. More antelope on the grasslands!

I have seen pictures of some good bucks taken including a couple that will make book. Then there are some with that set of horns that make you wonder how in the "cowboy heck" did that buck end up with that hat? I guess "Beauty is in the eye of the beholder" is correct. It is not too late to send in a picture of your trophy and we will try to get it into the next Pronghorn.

One thing that I like to remind people of is that it takes a lot of individuals to allow us to be able to go out and hunt these animals. As a member of the AAF your membership dollars allow us to go out and make habitat improvements. If you applied for a tag or were lucky enough to draw a tag, your dollars helped the Game and Fish to support a plan to put more antelope on grasslands. These things only happen because of the people involved. So, my ask of you as a member, recruit a new member for the AAF. Become involved.

Our projects are finished for the year. We will begin working on the 2024 Project Plan soon. If you are interested in what is in store for 2024 be sure to visit our website, azantelope.org. There you will find up to date information on what project plans will look like. The website also contains information on current raffle items and has pictures from some of our projects. You can also follow us on Facebook.

In finishing my message, I am going to get back on the horse I have been riding about volunteerism. Your time is the most valuable thing you have. How a person spends their time makes a difference. Why not consider becoming a member of the Board of Directors? The Board is made up of a diverse group of people who bring various backgrounds and expertise to the organization. Sure, it takes some time but the return on your investment pays tenfold. You can make a difference.



I am going to close with a quote I heard many years ago from a family member. It has been around for many years in various forms. Some say it is a Greek proverb, others say French. I have no idea where it came from, but it remains a cornerstone for conservationists.

"Blessed are they who plant trees knowing that they shall never sit under the shade of their leaves."

Thank you,
Terry

"LIBERTAS AD VAGOR"....

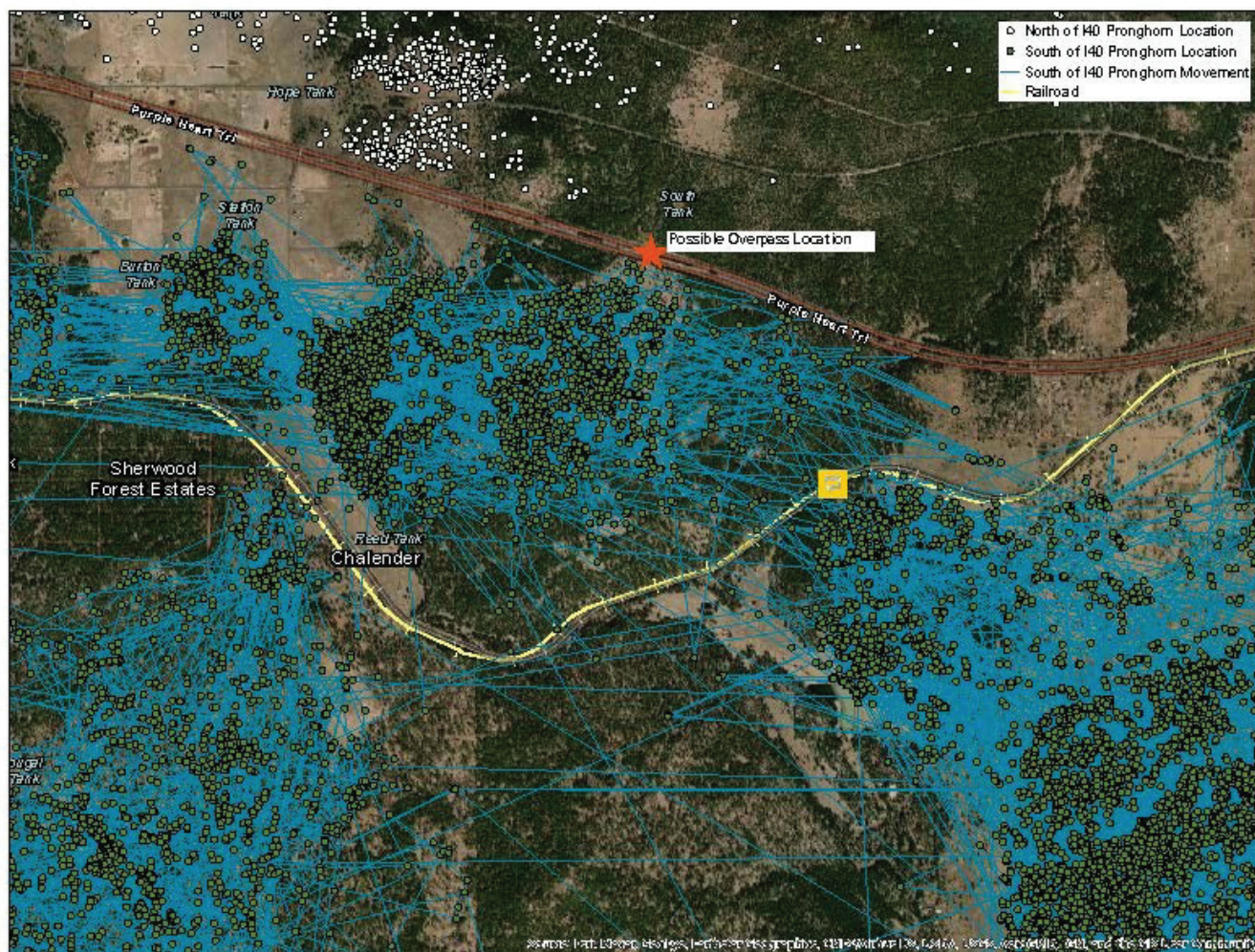
FREEDOM TO ROAM

I-40 OVERPASS PROJECT, AUGUST 12, 2023

BY GARY BOYER, AAF BOARD OF DIRECTORS

All AAF's work projects are an honor to be a part of and when a new project begins it can be particularly exciting. This project has been years in planning by AZGFD, (abbreviation definitions are at the end of the article). One of AAF's primary goals is habitat improvement by reducing obstacles within pronghorn migration corridors. By using radio-collared telemetry data on pronghorn, routes commonly used by pronghorn are identified by AZGFD. With fence barriers located, modifications to the fences are made to allow pronghorn to easily pass under fences. Sometimes removing old unused pasture fences is possible. We know that fences along highway ROWs are especially difficult for all terrestrial species to cross. We have used fence setbacks of several hundred feet to give animals a safe zone to use in crossing highways. These setbacks have been proven to be effective in allowing passage for all species.

What happens when traditional migration corridors have been bisected by interstate highways? As one can see by the map below, the green dots do not connect with the white dots. The interstate highway is impossible for pronghorn to cross. Throughout the state underpasses are utilized for cattle and other wildlife species, but pronghorn will not use them. Too many scary things can be waiting in there. Interstate 40 runs east-west and has very heavy traffic, the north-south I-17 between Phoenix and Flagstaff is another problem area. Both highways are sites of numerous elk vs. vehicle collisions every year. One short section of I-17 sees upwards of 85 elk road kills every year.



What is the solution? Arizona has built four overpasses over highways in recent years. Three of the overpasses are located over highway 93, a busy highway that connects Phoenix to Las Vegas and beyond. To the west of 93 is the Colorado River, to the east are bighorn sheep traditional territories. The sheep access the river as their water source. These amazing animals can fill their stomachs with water in 5 minutes. I have watched as their bellies swell with water. These overpasses, combined with funnel-fencing have eliminated vehicle vs. sheep incidents along highway 93. AZGFD cameras have recorded many different species of wildlife using the overpasses for the same reason, access to life giving water. The fourth overpass is in southern Arizona on State Route 77 north of Tucson.

As one drives these highways these overpasses look like typical bridges except there are no on-off ramps or any other normal bridge features. From the animal's perspective the overpass looks just like the surrounding terrain, a continuation of the desert landscape. Funnel-fences were constructed to guide the animals to these bridges.



The overpass along I-40 is one of three overpasses that AZGFD has prioritized for implementation in northern Arizona, along with two overpasses along I-17. By taking this first step for the eventual construction of the overpasses we look forward to the day it will become reality. Currently all three overpasses are in the Design phase and working through the ADOT processes. The next step is identifying funds to construct the overpasses. On August 1, 2023 AZGFD worked with ADOT to submit an application for funding one of the overpasses along I-17 north of Munds Park. This funding is part of the IIA Wildlife Crossing Pilot Program. These monies will be approved in late 2023 or early 2024, our fingers are crossed for approval this year. Implementing the I-17 project will help the I-40 overpass project gain momentum toward completion.

Before our work project AZGFD and the Forest Service began clearing trees and brush north of I-40 and south of Old Route 66. This was preparation to create a corridor for the elk, deer, and our pronghorn to access a future planned overpass west of Parks. AAF's job was to either remove or modify the existing unused pasture, ROW or boundary fencing along Old Route 66. The monsoon season was in full swing and as we were finishing the project, the thunder sounded a warning. It is not wise to be working on a miles long lightning rod during a thunderstorm. Luckily, the crews had finished their work, and we headed back to camp. A couple of us got back before the rain hit. By evening the storm had passed, and we had our usual steak, potatoes and salad dinner prepared by Bill and Mary Keebler. Our camp chefs always do a superb job preparing two breakfasts and two dinners for the work crews.

I want to thank Jeff Gagnon with AZGFD for his assistance in drafting this article. He makes me look a lot smarter than I actually am.

I have written previously about the need for connectivity and permeability for pronghorn herd survival. These animals had unfettered access to their traditional migratory routes BMH (before modern humans). Fences and roadways have cut off access to forage, water, fawning grounds, and the ability to exchange genetic material, all things necessary for healthy herd growth and sustainability. AAF, AZGFD and other critter groups are working hard to preserve our wildlife for future generations. AAF is grateful to all our volunteers that give up a weekend to help with our projects. Another way to help our mission is to become a member or renew your membership annually at azantelope.org.

We at AAF are so appreciative of all our volunteers and our great association with AZGFD. The following folks participated on this project.

Thanks to; Jake Anderson, David Brown, BJ Shagena, Kent Krumm, Jim McCasland, Steve Tritz, Tania Peret, Scott Sprague, Colin Beach, Alex Buckisch, Bill Davenport, Meagan Owens, Jim Wooddell, Brianna Russo, Kieth Heimes, David Wolf, Roger Joos, Earl Povent, Glen Bevin, Jeff Gagnon, Johnny Johnson, Michele Schaefer, Steve Schaefer, Louis Horvath, Jay and Connis Leadabrand, Bill McClendon, Garth Young, Al and Marsha Sue, Bill and Mary Keebler, Paul Pavlich, Richard Roller, Steve Rusiecki, David Breeden, Joe Bill Pickrell, Jamie Watkins, Troy Christensen, Kenneth Meadors and yours truly. My apologies if I left anyone out.

Abbreviations; AAF= Arizona Antelope Foundation. AZGFD=Arizona Game and Fish. ADOT= Arizona Dept. of Transportation. ROW= Right of way. BLM= Bureau of Land Management. BMH= Before Modern Humans.

Project photos courtesy Jamie Watkins





CONTINUED BONITA RANCH COOPERATION

JOHN MILLICAN, AAF FIELD PROJECT MANAGER

As predicted by the National Weather Service, the summer of 2023 has recorded below-normal precipitation and above-normal temperatures. Fortunately, the fall-winter of 2022-23 was above normal, allowing for above average range conditions.

When vegetation diversity is good, Pronghorn and other wildlife do not need to travel large distances for survival. But, during poor years, it is necessary that movement is unrestricted to allow access to life's essentials. One of the limiting factors to movement is fencing.

As part of AAF's commitment to improve connectivity, an agreement to replace 1.6 miles of non-wildlife friendly fence was developed on two separate private land boundary fence lines separating 4 ranches. One of the fence lines borders a county-maintained road, thus reducing wildlife/vehicle collisions.

Landowners removed the old fence and replaced it with a 4-strand wildlife friendly fence with materials purchased by AAF through their successful raffle income, which is being used for conservation projects. The total cost of materials was \$9,450.24, with cost share provided by landowner labor. The AAF funding source is critical since available grants do not allow for fence replacement or modification.

This continued partnership not only assisted the ranches in their livestock management practices but enhanced unrestricted movement corridors for Pronghorn and other wildlife throughout the Bonita grasslands.

M Triangle Ranch Pre-Rebuild



M Triangle Ranch Completion



KJ Ranch Pre-Rebuild



KJ Ranch Completion



HUNTING UP AN ANCIENT PRONGHORN CORRAL: A CHALLENGE TO ARCHAEOLOGISTS BY DAVID E. BROWN

We bring back an important historical voice from our 4th Quarter issue, 2006

I don't know who first sent me Robert Diggs's 20- year old article on "Stone Walls and Shafts: Evidence of a Communal Game Drive System on the Colorado Plateau, but it was probably AAF Director Thom Hulen.

This paper, written by an archaeologist from Northern Arizona University, suggested that a walled site north of Springerville's Casa Malapai ruins was used by hunters to corral and kill pronghorn sometime around 1150 BC. Skeptical, and suspecting that the site might have been used to corral jack-rabbits rather than pronghorn, three of us determined to take a look for ourselves.

Thom Hulen, Randy Turcotte, and I left our pronghorn fence work project at Basin Lake in the White Mountains early on a Sunday morning to see if we could find the site. The directions in the article came across as purposely vague as no roads were indicated on the map, only distances and topographical features. The key location appeared to be the historic Hall Ranch, and with a little dead-reckoning we found our way to the Ranch to start our search. And that is where it ended. On our arrival at a small cabin guarding the property, a lady ordered us to stay in our vehicle as the site was "off-limits" without a written letter from the Hopi tribe. With a rather vicious looking dog to back up her claim, and me visualizing a shotgun leaning within an arm's length of her doorstep, we did just as we were ordered. No matter that our map showed the site on state land. The lady was adamant that we had to see the Hopis first.

What followed was more than a year of visits, phone calls, and correspondence to various Hopi elders in an attempt to get a letter of clearance. AAF Past President Jim Unmacht finally made the right contacts and we were able to get permission but not in a letter format. But that was enough, we had a verbal o.k., and an e-mail full of names and phone numbers to call should the lady and her dog bar the way. More than a year passed, the price of gasoline skyrocketed, and somehow we could never find time to get up there again.

On August 12, 2006, we finally got our opportunity. AAF member, Henry Provencio, and his archaeologist wife, Heather, had made the necessary contacts for a visit, and arranged for his father Jesse, his friend Ray, and me to accompany them to the Hall Ranch. A light rain was falling as we headed out for Holbrook with the Little Colorado River running bank to bank. From then on we were in pronghorn country the whole way, the countryside looking wonderfully green and lush from the summer rains. But one only had to look at how few yellow stalks of grass and weeds remained from last year to realize how barren the country must have been a month earlier.

The rock walls of the "pronghorn corral" were remarkably easy to find, being visible from the access road and located immediately south of the historic Hall Ranch. At first inspection, the main wall, composed of unshaped malpai boulders, varies in height from being about 3-feet tall on the ridges, down to nearly ground level in the depressions, appeared to be too new to have been built by prehistoric hunters. But then, Heather observed that the lichens were much more numerous on the north sides of the wall's rocks. "That," she said, "is a sure sign of prehistoric construction." No longer fearful of anyone challenging us due to the swarms of mosquitos present, we investigated further, taking care not to disturb anything.

The walls, reported in the article to be nearly 6,000 yards in length are certainly interesting. A 300 yard segment of the main wall is especially prominent on the lava hills and ridges. One can, with a little imagination, visualize pronghorn running parallel with the wall to pass through selected gaps where the animals could be

communally shot or trapped. Further evidence of this is a series of stone-lined shafts, each reportedly more than 6- feet deep when excavated such sites could either conceal hunters or trap animals. Heather found a fossil pronghorn tooth, and Henry a broken arrowhead, both of which were left at the site. Altogether, the walls circumscribe a basin of about 1000 acres.

Are the walls the remains of a prehistoric hunting site? I am not enough of an archaeologist to say. Except for the lichens, the walls appear similar to other rock walls found along the Agua Fria drainage in Game Management Unit 21 by Cliff Herstead of Arcosanti, and which may be of historic origin. The Hall's Ranch site appears more promising, however, in that one can still visualize a herd of pronghorn being driven over the rise from the south, meeting the wall, and then paralleling it down to hunters crouched in the pits. Or, taking advantage of ancient habits, the hunters might have come in from the north, driving the pronghorn out of the cienega and through gaps in the wall where their comrades were laying in wait. Quien sabe?

The unique aspect about the Hall Ranch corrals, however, is that the utility of the communal hunt theory may yet be tested. Pronghorn still occur in the area (we saw one lone buck in the valley south of the corrals), and should the pronghorn population in the area again increase, an experiment might be designed to replicate a prehistoric hunt. Such an effort would require a "scout" to report pronghorn using the cienega, or feeding in the basin to the south. A modern day hunt shaman could then plan a "drive," sending out beaters to drive the animals toward a few concealed hunters along the wall. Such a "hunt," recreated with cameras instead of bows and arrows or atlatls, would be a first and elevate archaeology to an applied science that incorporates repeatability as part of the scientific method.



Messages from our earliest founders and 2-past Presidents

From time to time we find ourselves with enough magazine space to take a look back into our history. We thought these two letters were particularly informative about the year 1993. This our first full year of existence authored by a principal founder and our first President Pete Cimellaro, followed by a strong message regarding membership and participation by our 1994 President Jim McCasland. Both of them are still involved in Arizona wildlife conservation and the continued successes of the Arizona Antelope Foundation. Enjoy!

Message From the Immediate Past President

by Pete Cimellaro

The first year of the Arizona Antelope Foundation is now behind us, and I would like to make a few brief observations as my final act as the Foundation's first President.

The year went well. We laid a solid foundation upon which to build in the future. We obtained funding and manpower to complete two antelope habitat projects, which were well attended, much appreciated and provided an opportunity for members to get to know each other. These ongoing habitat projects will undoubtedly prove to be the backbone of this organization, and I hope that every member resolves to attend at least one of these projects a year.

Every effort has been made to involve all regions of the state. There are plans for projects everywhere there are antelope populations in Arizona, and it is my hope that membership and participation will eventually reflect all such regions.

I am grateful for the cooperation and assistance of the Arizona Game & Fish Department and its various regional personnel. Without such cooperation and our ability to utilize the Department's resources, my job would have been very difficult, indeed.

I am also thankful to have had such dedicated officers and directors. Their guidance, talent and combined knowledge was much more than any new organization could hope for.

The Arizona Antelope Foundation was organized to address the needs of a beautiful, noble and deserving animal, and this first year of its existence is encouraging beyond my expectations.

Keep up the good work. This is a cause worthy of the efforts of all of us. With such a good beginning, the Arizona Antelope Foundation can only get better and stronger in the years to come. Good health and good hunting.

Message From The President

by Jim McCasland

The arrival of the new year brings new challenges and opportunities for our organization. With the continual population growth of Arizona, more and more wildlife habitat is being lost. For this reason, your continued support for Arizona's antelope is imperative.

Please respond positively to the 1994 renewal notices. In fact, if every member, in addition to his own renewal, were to get just one more member to sign up, then that much more could be accomplished for antelope.

Our second year outlook is exciting. We have obtained both of the Arizona Game & Fish Department's special auction tags and expect the bidding for each of them to be exciting and rewarding. We are also looking forward to at least three habitat projects, as well as the Second Annual Hunters' Clinic.

The habitat projects, even though they are a lot of work, are also plenty of fun and offer a terrific opportunity for a family outing, and we'll put anybody you bring to work, from Junior to Granny! Besides, those of you who live in the hot desert, what better reason can you find to get out of the heat? And which of you who attended last year's clinic can forget the fine trophies displayed? We expect bigger and better this year.

AAF's continued desire is to have active participation from throughout the entire state, and I encourage all those who wish to contribute to contact me or any Board member. The more active members available, the more we can accomplish for our antelope. Your ideas, thoughts and suggestions are always welcome, and our Board meetings are open to everybody.

Please send in your renewal application, along with the new member application of at least one conservation-minded friend today.

ARIZONA'S ANTELOPE ARE YOUR ANTELOPE AND DESPERATELY NEED YOUR HELP! Make this the year you become involved.

PRONGHORN FAWNING IN ARIZONA

By Cindy L. Ticer, Arizona Game and Fish

Pronghorn does are sexually mature at one year of age and may breed for the first time at 15 to 16 months. Their gestation lasts for approximately 250 days. Fawning in Arizona may occur from mid-March through mid-June, depending on elevation and rainfall patterns.

When the doe is ready to give birth, she leaves the herd - sometimes with other pregnant does - to search for an acceptable fawning area. Fawning areas are typically of minor topographic relief and usually contain more cover than pronghorn typically use. Fawning area characteristics may vary with habitat type and other limiting factors, such as predation. For example, in a desert grassland community of central Arizona, I observed pregnant does retreating to isolated herbaceous (grass and forbs) flats adjacent to steep, rocky outcrops for fawning. In contrast, I observed little selection by pregnant does of fawning areas in a short-grass prairie with intensive predator control.

During labor, does initially lie on their sides, rocking back and forth. Once the fawn's head, forefeet and shoulders have emerged, The doe will stand as the fawn slides free. Usually, the doe will give birth to a single fawn if it is her first; thereafter, twinning generally occurs. At birth, fawns weigh 5 to 7 pounds.

Fawns are born in a partially independent condition, and they begin walking within 25 minutes of birth. By the time they are 4 or 5 days old, they can outmaneuver a research biologist. (Remember, it's illegal to harass wildlife, so don't chase fawns!)

Predation is a major contributor to pronghorn fawn mortality. Thus, pronghorn have developed adaptive behavioral strategies to reduce predation on fawns. For example, to decrease scents which would attract predators, soon after giving birth does will consume all afterbirth and move their fawns 50 to 100 yards from the birthing site. Additionally, to decrease the likelihood that the doe will give away her fawn's location, contact with her fawn is reduced considerably. In fact, within 40 to 50 minutes following birth, newborn fawns will leave their mothers to seek out bedsites, where they remain for up to 5 hours at a time. Doe-fawn contacts are only for brief periods of feeding and cleaning. Fawns generally will not bed together from shortly after birth until after they are about 3 weeks old; they then join nursery herds. Solitary bedding behavior reduces the likelihood that more than one fawn will be taken by a predator.

Pronghorn fawns also rely on camouflage for protection from predators. At birth, the fawns are a grayish-brown in color, which blends in well with the environment. Their rump patch is yellowish in color, as compared to the conspicuously white color of adults. Because fawn mortality is highest from birth to 2 weeks of age, selection of bedsites is very important for their survival. Vegetative cover and height should be enough to camouflage a bedded fawn but not impede its view or escape of predators. The amount and height of cover required to adequately hide a fawn from predators varies with habitat type and density. In most areas of Arizona, these requirements may be met by much less vegetative cover and height than we would expect. For example, studies conducted in a high montane valley of Idaho have shown that predation losses in areas of high cover exceeded those of low cover. To further reduce the risk of predation, fawns will change bedsites as many as 10 times a day, never using the same location twice.

The coyote is the predominant predator of pronghorn fawns in Arizona. Other predators include bobcats and golden eagles. Additionally, I have observed ravens attempting to take down newborn fawns. Pronghorn does will usually protect fawns from predators by charging them. Adult bucks have also been observed chasing off predators while "baby-sitting" newborn fawns. However, fence lines appear to provide coyotes with an advantage in eluding these attacks by adult pronghorn.

Available water sources are crucial for lactating does and ideally should be no farther than a fourth of a mile away. Unfortunately, although waterholes may be abundant in an area, they are not accessible when they are surrounded by antelope-proof fences or thick vegetation at heights impeding pronghorn vision.



At 3 to 4 weeks of age, pronghorn fawns will join "nursery herds", which contain several does with fawns. At this point, the fawns are fast runners and more likely to evade predators.



In most areas of Arizona, pronghorn fawning occurs far from civilization. However, a very successful fawning area of the state is located adjacent to the city of Prescott Valley. During the early morning and late afternoon hours from mid-May through July, fawning behavior can be observed with binoculars from Fain Road, between Highway 69 and Highway 89A. Travel off the main road is prohibited to prevent human disturbances during fawning season.

Cindy L. Ticer is a former Wildlife Biologist with the Arizona Game and Fish Department.

Photos courtesy Betty Dickens





SONORAN PRONGHORN UPDATE



JILL BRIGHT, AZ GAME & FISH

JULY-SEPTEMBER 2023

Captive Breeding **Cabeza Pen**

During July, there was some semi-aggressive sparring between males in the pen as they establish dominance for the breeding season. This resulted in a bad eye injury to one of the bucks in north pen. We attempted to dart him to assess and possibly treat him but were unsuccessful. He does seem to be doing somewhat better as time passes; hopefully we will catch him in the bomas and be able to get a good look at him.

There were three mortalities in the pen. In north herd, a 2-year old buck was found dead in early September; cause was unknown. A buck fawn was also found dead of unknown causes. In mid-September, a 2-year old doe in south pen was found dead. She had a leg injury from the 2021 capture/release and had been brought back to the Cabeza pen from the Vekol holding pen, but she had been doing reasonably well since then. Neither of these adult, nor the fawn, had been vaccinated for Blue-tongue or EHD recently. It's possible there were some disease issues after the rains in July and August. The pen got about ½ inch of rains during July/September, but it is still relatively dry. This may make passively capturing them in the bomas easier this year if the pen remains dry.

The crew has been busy getting the bomas set up for this year's capture, scheduled for December 11-14. They have also been working on plans and scheduling to get holding pens in the Saucedo and Organ Pipe Cactus NM areas set up for potential releases this December.

NORTH HALF		SOUTH HALF	
Adult Females	10	Adult Females	10
Yearling Females (<i>b</i> 2022)	3	Yearling Females (<i>b</i> 2022)	7
Adult Males	6	Adult Males	6
Yearling Males (<i>b</i> 2022)	4	Yearling Males (<i>b</i> 2022)	6
Fawns (<i>b</i> 2023, 9 male, 2 female)	11	Fawns (<i>b</i> 2023, 8 m, 10 f)	18
TOTAL	34	TOTAL	47
Total Pen	81		

Kofa Pen

The Kofa herd is doing well. The Kofa pen got over ½ inch of rain in July and more in August from the hurricane. There was a mortality of one of the original does bought to the Kofa pen from Cabeza in 2011. She was 13 years old, and the death was most likely age-related.

The Kofa crew is also getting the pen and bomas ready for the capture/release scheduled for December 18- 20. They have also been busy, with the help of YPG and KOFA personnel, putting up the holding pen on the East Arm of YPG for the release of pronghorn there.



Pronghorn in Kofa pen.

Adult Females	12
Yearling Females (b 2022)	3
Adult Males	4
Yearling Males (b 2022)	5
Fawns (b 2023, 10 male, 4 female)	14
TOTAL	38

Wild Pronghorn Cabeza/ORPI/BMGR Herd: We have been having difficulty scheduling telemetry flights and have not done any recent telemetry flights in this area. The western side of this range received some good but scattered rains during late July and August, greening up a lot of areas and filling most of our waters.

Wild Pronghorn Kofa Subunit: This area received excellent and wide spread rains and is in excellent condition in most areas. There was a mortality of a 12-year old buck near the Kofa pen in August. This buck was one of the original group of 9 pronghorn released on Kofa in January 2013 from the Cabeza pen after a period of acclimatization in the Clancy holding pen on Kofa. All the collars from this release failed almost immediately and fell off, but we were able to passively capture this buck into the Kofa pen in the summer of 2013. He was then re-released to the wild in January 2016. He had routinely spent his time around the Clancy area and was a frequent visitor to the South Release water outside Kofa pen. The pen crew observed him walking slowly, and looking poorly in the few days prior to finding him dead near South Release. Given his age and lack of predation, we assume he died of natural causes after hopefully living a good long life on Kofa Refuge.

Wild Pronghorn Saucedo Subunit: This area has remained in fairly good condition. It received about 0.8 inches of rain between July and September.

Wild Pronghorn Vekol Valley Herd: There have been three mortalities in this herd in July. A 2-year old and a 3-year old buck were killed by mountain lions. A 4-year old was also found dead, but too much time had passed to be sure of her cause of death, although there were some indications of possibly a mountain lion as well. There have not been any more mortalities in August through now; we suspect the rains in the end of July—August allowed the pronghorn to move away from the waters and become less susceptible to predation.



Water Projects: Our 23,000-gallon Xamool water we built in January on YPG East Arm filled up with two rain events in July and August. Numerous pronghorn were photographed using it during the summer.

Xamool Water



Pronghorn at a temporary water on YPG East Arm

Forage Enhancements: With the late summer rains, irrigation and alfalfa feeding tapered off as forage conditions improved and areas greened up.

Other Projects:

Pinacate Pronghorn.

A 2-year old male was found dead in September in the north part of Pinacate. Cause of death was unknown, but he was not poached. This leaves only one male and one female left from the 6 released there in January.

Mexico Range-Wide Survey

Normally we would conduct the biennial range-wide survey in Sonora this November/December. However, AGFD decided that safety conditions in Mexico were not conducive to conducting the survey this year and it was canceled.



Point of the Pintas before the rains

Pronghorn Project Personnel Updates

There have been several changes in the AGFD pronghorn project personnel. Jill Bright has moved to the position of the Yuma Region Terrestrial Wildlife Program Manager. Russell Gardner has taken her place as the Sonoran Pronghorn Projects Lead. Noah Ratliff, the Ajo crew supervisor, has resigned to pursue greener pastures. We are working to fill the Nongame Specialist and Ajo Crew Leader vacancies these movements have created.

Written October 20, 2023

MEMBERSHIP

LIFE MEMBERS

1. Art Pearce, Phoenix
2. Jim Mehen, Flagstaff
3. Larry D. Adams, Bullhead City
4. James K. McCasland,
5. Nina Gammons, Payette, ID
6. Nancy Lewis, Phoenix
7. Pete Cimellaro, Phoenix
8. Jerry Weiers, Phoenix
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73. Alan Calvert, Buckeye
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77. Billie Bechtel, Show Low
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120. Robert M. Findling, Santa Fe, NM
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| Joseph Bernardo, Lyndhurst NJ | Christian Frueh, Tucson | Alice Koch, Templeton, CA | Patricia Barker Parran, Portal |
| David M Brown, Flagstaff | Lester R. Gaskill, Show Low | Steven McNamara, Chino Valley | C Edward Perkins, Happy Jack |
| Laura Webb Brown, Tucson | Roger & Ilene Hailey, Flagstaff | Robert Morris, Bullhead City | Dan Priest, Phoenix |
| Linda Dightmon, Payson | Justin Hansen, Boston, MA | Keith Newlon, Sierra Vista | Bob & Judy Prosser, Winslow |
| Bonnie Evenson, Tonto Basin | Tyler Hessler, Phoenix | John O'Brien, Scottsdale | Jay Starks, Phoenix |
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| Mary DeJong, Flagstaff | Craig Moody, Flagstaff, AZ | Barry R. Sopher, Tucson |
| Kathleen Boyer Dutton, Hayden, AL | Kenneth & Chontel Morris, Cave Creek | Brian K. Taylor, Munds Park |
| Ron & Sharon Eichelberger, Alpine | Petkovic Family, Tucson | Christopher & Jolene Vallejos, Flagstaff |
| Paul Kennedy Ellis, Tucson | Ken & Donna Pitzlin, Sierra Vista | Jamie Watkins, Phoenix |

WELCOME TO NEW MEMBERS

- | | |
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| William Burk Jr, East Peoria, IL | Stephen Polanchak, Chino Valley, AZ |
| Charles Fornara, Coshocton, OH | Steve Schaefer, Prescott, AZ |
| Justin Hansen, Boston, MA | Dennis Shipp, Phoenix, AZ |
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