

AZ Sportsmen For Wildlife Conservation GRANT COMPLETION REPORT

Use tab or arrow keys to move between fields and shift-tab to go back
Fillable Fields will expand as you type.

Project Title: Altar Valley Pronghorn Translocation Project

Organization: Arizona Antelope Foundation

Event/Project Completion Date: January 24, 2023

Project Location (Include info such as event center, hunting unit, etc.): Buenos Aires National Wildlife Refuge

Submitted By: John Millican, AAF Field Project Manager

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Today's Date: June 29, 2023

AZSFWC Recognition:

AZSFWC Logo and Link to AZSFWC on organization's website? (attach screen print image) Yes No

License Plate Image w/link to MVD on organization's website? (attach screen print image) Yes No

AZSFWC Logo displayed at event? (attach photo(s)) Yes No

AZSFWC recognized in all marketing materials & post event articles? (attach all samples) Yes No

List any social media recognition of AZSFWC (include all screen print images)

Was there any media or press coverage? (attach copies if available) Yes No

List any other recognition?

Summarize Project Accomplishments : The Arizona Game and Fish Department transplanted 30 pronghorn antelope from the San Bernardino Valley, GMU 30A, in January of 2023 to supplement a small herd residing on the Buenos Aires National Wildlife Refuge. The Refuge has completed, and is in the process of expanding on, thousands of acres of habitat treatment for the benefit of pronghorn antelope. Ten (10) of the transplanted pronghorn were fitted with remote tracking collars (supplied by AAF along with 2-years of upload fees), allowing the Department and the AAF to monitor use of the treated habitat and use that information to guide future habitat work.

Mortality alerts transmitted by the collars allowed AZGFD and USFS staff to locate deceased pronghorn quickly and identify the cause of death for 5 of the 10 collared pronghorn. (The balance of their data packages will be applied to the other collars on the account.) The data transmitted from the surviving pronghorn have already revealed use of areas previously undocumented, and enabled tracking of fawn success. A future wildlife biologist in training (2023 summer intern) is benefitting from the deployment of these collars as well, as she locates and monitors the collared pronghorn weekly. Due to their gregarious nature, it is also possible to gather data on other pronghorn that are located with the collared animals, adding to the knowledge about the other (uncollared) transplanted animals, and the resident herd.

Measurable Results (Fill in all that are applicable):

Attendees (If project was an event, list total # of participants, excluding staff, visiting parents, etc): 46 _____

Visitors (If the project is an interpretive display, list total # of annual visitors): _____

Brochures, Pamphlets, etc. (If the project is a brochure, publication, poster or video, list the total produced and distributed): ___ Pronghorn Magazine 1st quarter 2023 credit noted for the ASFWC funding of the collars (see page #9) ___

Other (please explain): Pronghorn capture/translocation project

Budget (specifically describe how AZSFWC funds were used; e.g. program promotion, type of equipment, materials and/or supplies, etc.) **ATTACH COPIES OF ALL RECEIPTS:**

Budget Item	Planned	Actual
Collars – AZSFWC Grant Request	\$10,000.00 (AAF)	
Collar upload fees - AAF	\$15,000.00 (AAF)	
Contract Helicopter capture of 30 animals - AZGFD	\$39,075.00	
Paid time of AZGFD personnel (approx.. 10 persons, 24 hours of Work/travel)	\$6,000.00	
TOTAL	\$70,075.00	

Project Cooperator(s) (please include any in-kind contributions):

Cooperator (no abbreviations)	Amount Contributors \$
AZGFD	\$31,000.00
AAF	\$15,000.00
TOTAL	\$46,000.00

Photographs

*Visuals are **critical** to effectively communicating project accomplishments and are a requirement of AZSFWC project reporting*

Following are a few photo guidelines:

- Submit photos (digital & prints are all welcome) in their original format. No photocopies please.

- Email to info@azsfwc.org is our preferred method of receiving digital photos, but large files can submitted via CD/DVD/Flash Drive, or uploaded to an online dropbox.

Please return this completed form and supporting documentation and send along with photos to: **AZ Sportsmen for Wildlife Conservation Grant Program PO Box 75731 New River, AZ 85087** or e-mail to info@azsfwc.org. Phone: 602-361-6478.



Buck with collar, Photo by Vivian Current



Doe with fawn, Photo by Vivian Current



Doe with Collar, Photo by Vivian Current



Doe Group, Photo by Vivian Current

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Jan 25 · 🌐

AZGFD translocated 30 pronghorn antelope this week from northeast of Douglas to the USFWS's Buenos Aires National Wildlife Refuge near Sasabe. The translocation more than doubles the size of the pronghorn herd at the refuge to more than 50. Two of the five bucks and eight of the 25 does were GPS radio collared at a staging area after being net gun captured by helicopter. The collars were paid for by the AZ Antelope Foundation and AZ Sportsmen For Wildlife Conservation. The source population had approximately 200 pronghorn; SE AZ has approximately 600 pronghorn in grasslands areas. Pronghorn habitat at the refuge has been improved over the years by the Friends of Buenos Aires removing 200 miles obsolete fencing.



👍❤️ 22

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Facebook post by Mark Hart, AZGFD

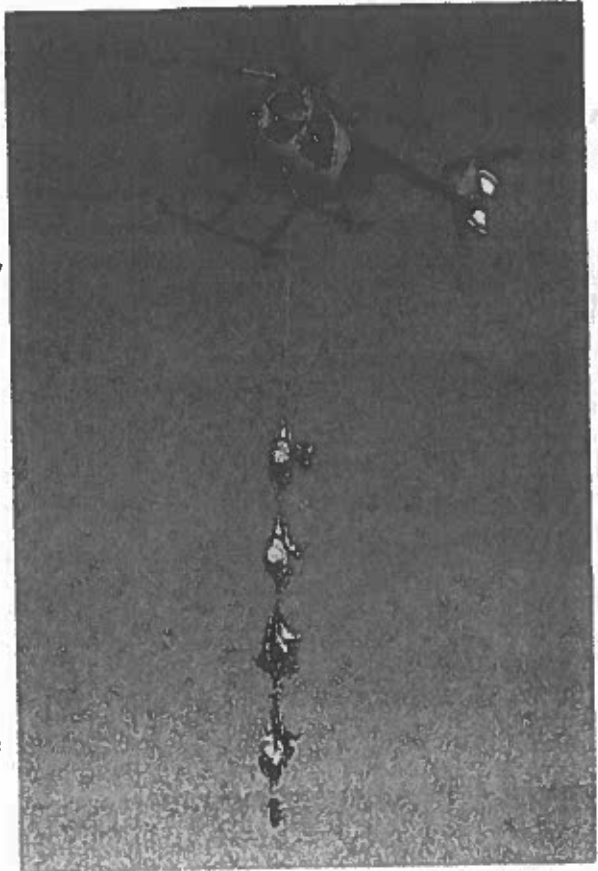
6. Transport by stretcher to the transport trailer
7. 5-hour drive the BANWR and successful release before sunset

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

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



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



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

Thanks go out to several groups of folks and individuals that contributed to this successful project.
 -Representing the AAF; Darrell Tersey, Gary Boyer, Jamie Hawkins, Betty Dickens, Dale Maas, Marsha & Al Sue, Mike Ebright, Fritz Sawyer, John Millican, Marsha Halcrow, Earl Polvent & yours truly

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

-Representing the US Fish & Wildlife Service; Matt Frederickson +3
 -Youth Student Volunteers; Deana Hawkins & Shelby Moore
 -Volunteers; Adam Corlin, Mike Spence & Caren McCurdy
 -10X Ranch Manager Smith Family; Chance, Iliana, Ella, Gidcon, Sadie & Titus
 -Contract Helicopter Crew; Jeryd Kleyhang, Justin Thompson, Schutz, Mariot & James Buckhand

MAGAZINE ARTICLE AAF



AAF is a Conservation Organization. We focus on work that restores healthy, viable pronghorn populations. Read more about our partnership work at this link: [Collaborative Conservation and Adaptation Strategy Toolbox \(CCAST\)](#)

By purchasing this plate you will be making a contribution to Arizona's wildlife and wildlife habitat. Seventeen dollars (\$17) of each twenty-five (\$25) special license fee will go to AZSFWC's Wildlife Conservation Habitat Fund. These plates can be purchased at MVD offices around the state or online, and can also be personalized with up to seven (7) characters for an additional \$25. To purchase the plate click on the link below

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