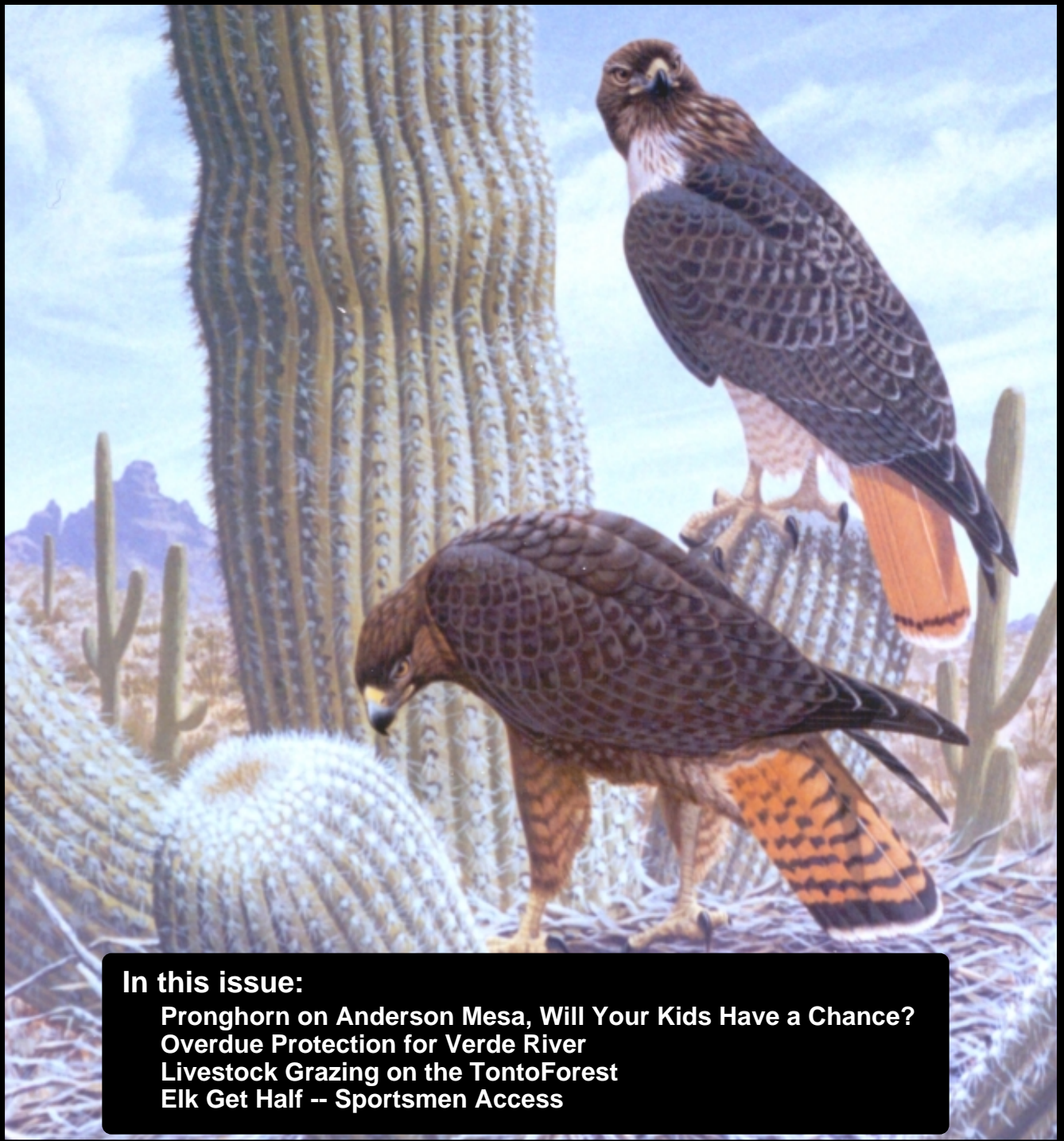




Arizona Wildlife

VOL. 43, ISSUE 4

FALL 2001



In this issue:

Pronghorn on Anderson Mesa, Will Your Kids Have a Chance?
Overdue Protection for Verde River
Livestock Grazing on the Tonto Forest
Elk Get Half -- Sportsmen Access

AWF MISSION STATEMENT

The mission of the Arizona Wildlife Federation is to educate, inspire and assist individuals and organizations to conserve, enhance, manage and protect wildlife and other natural resources of our State and Union.

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Red-tailed Hawk - *Buteo jamaicensis*
One of the 42 prints of raptors, that spend at least part of their lives in Arizona, reproduced from the original paintings by world renowned wildlife artist Richard Sloan. These prints are available from the Arizona Wildlife Foundation. See Page 5

Arizona Wildlife News

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AMERICA IN CRISIS

SAVING THE WILD

AT A TIME LIKE THIS

A Special Message From NWF President Mark Van Putten

One means of sanity is to retain a hold on the natural world, to remain, insofar as we can, good animals... We simply need that wild country available to us, even if we never do more than drive to its edge and look in. For it can be a means of reassuring ourselves of our sanity as creatures, a part of the geography of hope. –Wallace Stegner

We recoiled in horror at the unspeakable events of September 11, 2001. Then, slowly, we began to ponder the profound impact this unparalleled human and national tragedy would have on us as individuals and as a country.

Inevitably in a time of national crisis, priorities shift. We ask ourselves what we should do “at a time like this.” At the National Wildlife Federation, we’ve asked ourselves, “Do our efforts to connect all Americans with the natural world and build awareness, understanding and support for wildlife, wild places and a healthy environment really matter ‘at a time like this’ “? I believe the answer is an unequivocal, “Yes, they do.”

For while this may not be a time for business-as-usual conservation, it is a time to re-affirm the enduring relevance of a fundamental national ethic: the value of our wildlife and wild places, and the healing power of nature, in an often chaotic world. Like Aldo Leopold, most Americans would not want to live in a world without wild things. And most Americans believe that securing the future of our wildlife and wild places – including irreplaceable special places like the Arctic National Wildlife Refuge – must remain high on our list of national priorities.

Congress has deferred debate on energy legislation and many other contentious issues to focus on our national security, as well it should. But

the fact remains that drilling in the Arctic Refuge would not provide any energy for years, and its contribution to our overall needs would be slight. Drilling would, however, defile one of the last, pristine wild places left to us. We must guard against any opportunistic efforts to weaken existing protection for this special place.

Caring Americans can take meaningful action to decrease our dependence on foreign energy supplies by emphasizing conservation, and insisting that Congress make gas-guzzling SUVs meet the same fuel efficiency standards as passenger cars. We can even make a significant difference by doing things as simple as using a gallon less of gasoline each week, or installing compact fluorescent light bulbs.

But foregoing continued progress toward a healthy environment, and the protection of our precious natural resources, is not a prudent option for a strong America – even at a time when our immediate priorities may be focused elsewhere.

Disturbing projections that Glacier National Park may soon be bereft of glaciers remind us that protecting America also requires that we move aggressively and globally to deal with the causes and consequences of climate change, which threatens the health of our natural resources and our economy alike. Likewise, we must continue to work cooperatively with other nations toward world trade agreements that respect the needs of

wildlife and the environment, as well as the hopes and aspirations of people everywhere.

Stegner’s “geography of hope” is found in such resplendent American landscapes as our national parks, our prairie grasslands, the Everglades, and national wildlife refuges like the Arctic Refuge. But it also flourishes in gardens, backyards, schoolyards and green spaces across this great country. Nature is the unifying essence that nurtures and regenerates life at every level; its loss – or the loss of our connection to it – diminishes us as individuals and as a nation.

Immediately following the terrorist attacks in New York, I was struck and moved to hear of dazed and grieving New Yorkers flocking to nearby community gardens to comfort each other and reaffirm their common humanity. In the days following the tragedy, I also heard from National Wildlife Federation members and supporters, Board members and staff, many of whom described their need to escape the horrific televised images — their need for solace and sustenance. And many told of finding that comfort and renewal as they walked by a familiar stream, hiked a favorite mountain path or even sat under a tree in a local park.

Conservation is ultimately about caring, and about community. With your continued support, we can help keep it an American tradition that is passed proudly from generation to generation.

Volunteers for Wildlife Needed!

AWF Schedules Wildlife Habitat Project at Buenos Aires NWR - November 24

Visit our website for more information -- www.azwildlife.org or call to RSVP

The purpose of this project is to remove as much livestock fencing as possible from the interior of Buenos Aires National Wildlife Refuge to benefit pronghorn antelope. The Arizona Wildlife Federation, in conjunction with the Arizona Antelope Foundation hopes that as many members of wildlife conservation organizations as possible participate. The project is scheduled for the Saturday after Thanksgiving, November 24, 2001.

The Refuge is located southwest of Tucson on the highway to Sasabe. Those that want to come early may choose to arrive Friday night.

The fence work is scheduled for Saturday and will take place from roughly 8 A.M. until 4 P.M.

Numerous camp sites are available but participants need to be self-contained and have their own food for all but Saturday night.

Late Saturday afternoon, there will be a program at a central gathering site to explain the mission and goals of the Refuge. Afterwards the AWF will sponsor a cookout for all those lending a hand.

Those that can stay over until Sunday will have an opportunity to tour the Refuge with knowledgeable biologists

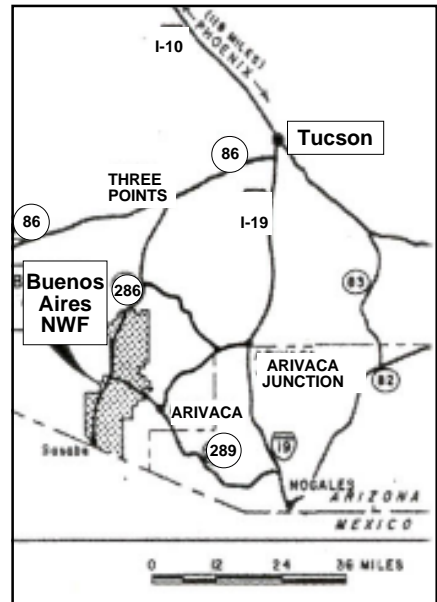
and observe various examples of recovering grassland habitats.

The goal of this project is to remove obstacles to antelope movement, as these animals are reluctant to jump fences and must pass through them when going from one pasture to another.

Fence removal, however, is only part of the Refuge's larger program to restore pronghorn and their grassland habitats to pre-settlement conditions when hundreds of pronghorns occupied Altar Valley. Other efforts include the total removal of livestock, the construction of numerous erosion control structures, and the reinstatement of a natural fire regime in the grasslands.

Pronghorn had disappeared from Altar Valley by 1935 due to poor range conditions, competition the effects of these dry periods was exacerbated by excessive livestock grazing. Antelope are hardy animals and, when they die of starvation, range conditions are serious." In 1987, in attempt to re-establish pronghorn in the Altar Valley 87 animals from the Trans-Pecos region of Texas were released on the Refuge. These new arrivals were subsequently reduced by losses to coyotes and mountain lions. The most serious problem, however, was poor

fawn recruitment, and in February 2000, the Arizona Game and Fish Department released another 87 pronghorn from the Prescott area on the Refuge. The results of that effort have not yet been fully determined, but this year's fawn recruitment of nearly one fawn for every two does is encouraging and the highest in southern Arizona. Hopefully, because of your efforts, the 50 some pronghorn presently found on the Refuge will increase again next year.



Quail Triple Treat Expected

By **Rory Aikens-**
Arizona Game and Fish

This is shaping up to be the year for a quail triple treat in southeastern Arizona, and fairly good quail hunting throughout much of the state for Gambel's, said Arizona Game and Fish Department biologists.

Record winter and good spring precipitation, followed by early summer rains, has created good to excellent conditions for Gambel's, scaled and Mearns' quail reproduction in southeastern Arizona. Significant rains this past week in many areas have bolstered that outlook.

Small Game Supervisor Ron Engel-Wilson explained that Gambel's quail reproduction is directly related to winter and spring rainfall.

Arizona experienced record winter and good spring precipitation, making the statewide outlook for Gambel's good.

Randy Babb, Region VI information

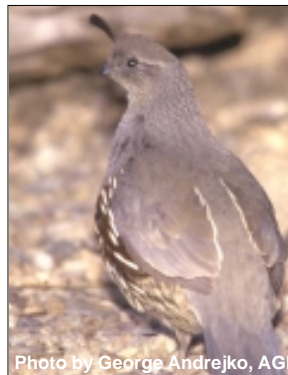


Photo by George Andrejko, AGFD



Photo by George Andrejko, AGFD

and education program manager, said he originally thought the best anyone could expect would be an average year for Gambel's.

"At present, the birds seem to be making me a liar. I have seen broods as high as 22 and as

Triple Treat -- continued on Page 18

The Raptors of Arizona

Offered by the Arizona Wildlife Foundation

This unusual and breathtaking collection of lithographs with each raptor depicted in its typical Arizona habitat are from the forty-two original paintings created exclusively for the Arizona Wildlife Foundation, by world-renowned wildlife artist, Richard Sloan.

All of the Arizona settings have been painstakingly researched by Richard L. Glinski, editor for *The Raptors of Arizona* a book, co-published by the Foundation, The Arizona Game and Fish Department and the University of Arizona Press. Each raptor is portrayed with beauty and scientific authority and each image is the same size as the original: 13 1/2 inches wide by 18 inches high.

The lithographs are being offered by the Arizona Wildlife Foundation in a limited edition of five hundred, each signed and numbered. Proceeds benefit the educational programs of the Foundation.



A set of these prints would make a perfect Christmas gift for any naturalist, outdoorperson, or bird enthusiast. Available for just \$75 per print plus shipping, you may choose any of the 42 different raptors. A perfect compliment to the prints is the companion book, *The Raptors of Arizona* edited by Richard Glinski also available for \$75. Visit our website (www.azwildlife.org) or call for more information and special offerings for sets of 3 or more.

Order on the web -- Coming Soon!

Antelope Foundation Project -- October 19-21

Anyone interested in helping Arizona's antelope population is encouraged to put on their work gloves and lend a hand during the Arizona Antelope Foundation's project on the Flower Pot Ranch in Game Management Unit 21 north of Cordes Junction (off Dugas Ranch Road and Interstate 17) on Oct. 19-21.

The project involves modifying vari-

ous fences to allow better antelope movement on the ranch, as well as better access to water. This is the first project on this particular ranch, but will be the Antelope Foundation's last project for this year.

Due to habitat loss and fragmentation, along with other factors, the Arizona Game and Fish Department list pronghorn antelope as a "species of special concern".

The Antelope Foundation will provide a steak dinner to all volunteers on Saturday night. For more information, contact Antelope Foundations members Joe Bill Pickrell (602) 995-0554, Don Johnson (602) 278-3010 or David Brown (480) 965-5752, or Troy Christensen at the Arizona Game and Fish Department, (602) 789-3292.

TED (BUD) KNIPE 1909-2001

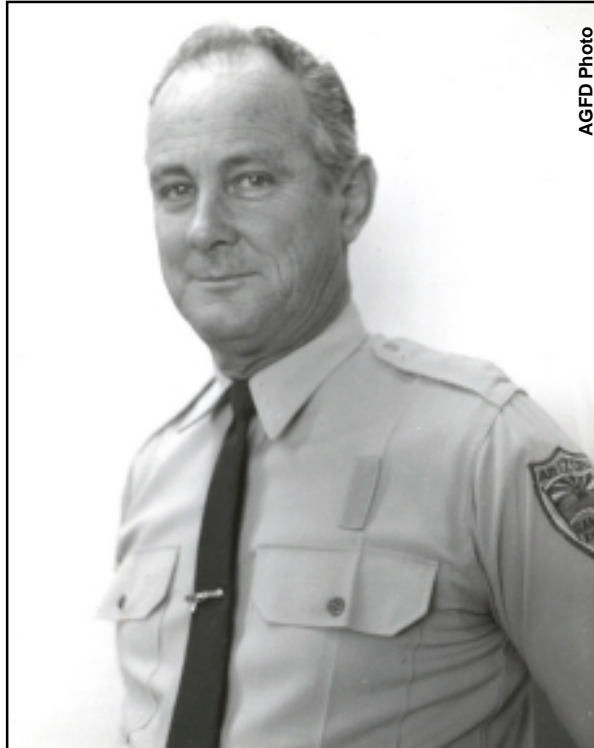
By David E. Brown

I had expected the message for so long that my reaction was more numbness than sadness when it came. The heading of the article in the *Tucson Citizen* was simple enough: “Theodore ‘Ted’ Knipe, retired Arizona Game & Fish Supervisor ... has died at age 92.” What followed was the boilerplate of every obituary. That he was a member of a pioneering southern Arizona ranching family, that he had attended Tucson High School and the University of Arizona, that he had served with the U. S. Army in France during World War II, and that he had “later devoted his entire adult career to work with Arizona Game and Fish, retiring as supervisor for the Southern District.” He was of course a lot more than all of that to those who knew him.

Ted Knipe had been my first real “boss,” and I knew him well. He had “taught me the ropes,” so to speak, and I admired and respected him. In some ways he was a surrogate father whom I wanted to both please and emulate. He had taught me much of what I came to know about southern Arizona’s plants and animals. Even more important, it was Ted who first introduced me to the Tucson’s sportsmen’s clubs, the local outdoor media, our hunting and fishing license dealers, our region’s taxidermists, and to what he properly referred to as “our hunting and fishing constituents.” He was my introduction to the outdoor community, and it was he who made me feel at home in the Southwest.

Within six months of joining the Arizona Game and Fish Department as a wildlife manager trainee in 1961, I knew that there was no question as to where I wanted to be stationed. Each of the state’s seven regions had a distinct personality, and Region VI: Tucson, had the reputation of having the best hunt recommendations. Ted Knipe, one of the Department’s veteran biologists, was the regional supervisor, and he had a no-nonsense reputation for field work and

the promotion of sound wildlife management principles. No other region’s work was more respected, and I longed for the day when I could stand up with the other Region VI managers and present my hunt recommendations to the public. There were no wildlife specialists



AGFD Photo

in those days, and each wildlife manager represented the Department when it came to matters pertaining to his district. Moreover, Region VI was great game country, with plenty of Coues white-tailed deer, desert mule deer, and javelina, along with a few bears, pronghorns, bighorns, and turkeys for good measure. The fabled Oracle Junction quail study had taken place in Region VI, and Avra Valley had a reputation as a dove hunting Mecca throughout the West.

Ted exceeded all of my expectations as a supervisor. Things were slower then, and office chores more easily postponed. On numerous occasions he would accompany me in the field, and we took several memorable trips—to the Baboquavari and Pozo Verde mountains, to the Papago Indian Reservation, to the Roskrige and Silverbell mountains, and even as far afield as the Sand Tank and

Table Top mountains. Even when he wasn’t present, no matter what plant I returned with, or what animal I reported seeing, Ted knew what it was. He was, after all, almost a native son, and he knew the country like few others did. I worked for Ted as a wildlife manager for six years, and I loved every day of it.

A taciturn man, Ted never told me much of anything. Instead, he took me there and showed me. It was thus from his demonstrations of browse-beaten plants that I learned that kidney-wood was a premier white-tailed deer food and fairy-duster was important in the winter diet of desert mule deer. A long time deer biologist, he showed me how to tell white-tailed deer tracks and pellets from those of mule deer. In several tests he taught me how to differentiate yearling deer from adults and how to tell a doe in good condition from one that was not. He maintained that all wildlife surveys should be conducted on foot and he disdained the use of light planes or helicopters for censusing game. How else but by being on the ground, could one learn to read the

animal’s sign, know the composition of the browse, and be able to evaluate the condition of the habitat? Habitat is everything, he said. And, he expected each wildlife manager to make a minimum of 40 foot surveys every winter—not only to sample the game populations, but so that we would know our district better than any rancher or sportsman.

Ted was not a man to offer praise, and his compliments were rare. He had come from an old Massachusetts whaling family, and a family history of having been raised on a homestead in the Rincon Mountains did not make for a loquacious nature. Yet I sensed that he liked me as I did him. Ted had a sense of history, and recognizing the same trait in me, he took the time to introduce me to former biologists, wardens, and commissioners who had lived and worked in the Tucson area—Tom and Dora Wright, Blue

Knipe -- continued on Page 23

Is Politics or Biology Pushing for Changes in Elk Rules?

By David Wolf

Arizona Daily Sun (azdailysun.com)

- August 31, 2001

It is coming. It is picking up speed. The wagon is rolling down the hill and the only thing that can stop it, if it needs to be stopped, is YOU!

Just about every rule the Arizona Game and Fish Department has regarding elk is open for change. Those changes, if adopted, will mean less elk in our future, even less than we have now, with the post hunt population being below what Game and Fish says is their population goal.

The current population level is officially below the goal due to the years of drought which have limited the forage available for all wildlife, and livestock.

Livestock is allocated approximately 80%* of the forage produced by our forests so when the dry years come everything suffers. Because livestock can be moved as needed ranchers feel the effect first. Elk permits have to be issued, then the elk have to be found and killed by hunters. There

is a definite time lag before elk numbers are reduced.

The company line is that Game and Fish needs more tools to make their elk management response to changing habitat conditions more timely and to eliminate elk where Game and Fish has decided elk do not belong. These areas generally are near private lands and winter range areas where elk have taken up year round residence reducing the forage available for cattle and causing some habitat.

One modification in the elk management rules, if adopted, would create hunter pools. These pools of hunters would be called upon to kill elk upon very short notice. These special nonpermit-tags would also have a special

price-this opens another rule for change.

This pool of hunters would be eligible to harvest more than one elk per year-another rule change.

Elk are opportunist and they like to eat the green-green grass of spring. Elk often clean up the best forage before the ranchers cattle arrive. Who can blame the pregnant elk who are only doing the best thing for their developing fetal calves which are born in June.

This really rankles ranchers who count on that quick weight gain from



Photo by Steve Gallizioli

spring forage to make or break their profit margin. So another rule change would permit a spring elk season to be set. Because this would be a regular season, hunters could apply for two elk permits per year-another rule change.

Two elk permits raises the question of bonus points-how will this be handled? What about non-resident hunters? More rule changes.

The Department also wants to divert the Game and Fish Commissions authority to determine elk seasons and permits to the Game and Fish Director to enable speedier authorization of special elk population reduction hunts due to habitat or private land issues.

These are a lot of changes in a system that has worked well for elk.

According to ranchers it has worked too well resulting in way too many elk competing with their cattle. According to some ranchers the elk have had negative impacts on everything from deer and antelope to turkey and squirrels.

Some biologists do feel that elk squeeze deer out. Cattle on the other hand, according to these same ranchers, are the best thing to ever happen to wildlife. All the "improvements to the range" ranchers have made is the reason wildlife has done so well.

If you believe that I have some ocean front property to sell you-near Winslow.

Water development has opened habitat to wildlife, of that there is no doubt. As for grazing? The fences, the soil erosion, the allocation of so much forage to cattle, the war on everything from lion and wolves to prairie dogs has not been a benefit to wildlife.

Can cattle grazing be done to enhance forage conditions, yes, in strictly controlled circumstances. Does this "enhancement" benefit wildlife or livestock? It depends on who

you ask.

What about all the rule changes? I would suggest you attend the meetings. (See page 17)

You can learn more about the rule changes by going to: azgfd.com. Go to the WHAT'S NEW section and click on Elk Harvest Strategies.

Written comments need to be sent to Dana Yost, Rule Writer, Arizona Game and Fish Department, 2221 W. Greenway Road, DORR, Phoenix, AZ 85023 or via E-mail: rulemaking@gf.state.az.us.

One has to wonder. Is politics or biology driving this wagon down the hill?

* **Editor's Note:** Percentage varies between forest and even between allotments. It is usually less than indicated here.

The Volunteer BOW Instructors

By Linda Dightmon

They are the volunteer instructors of the Becoming an Outdoors Woman program of Arizona (BOW). Without their patient gentle guidance there would be no BOW. These diverse individuals have several things in common. They all love and respect the outdoors. They all are very good and many are professionals in the disciplines they teach.

I began this piece with the intent of spotlighting the instructors. The theme was to laud their talents and the altruistic efforts needed to make the program a success. However, as is often the case during the course of research, something happened. The essay started to curve and suddenly it wasn't only about what the teachers give but also about what they receive from their students.

First, let me introduce the instructors. This is only a sample of the talent pool of our Arizona BOW instructors. To include them all could take the entire newsletter. Please accept my apologies if I've left someone out.

L. V. Yates

L.V. Yates a patriarch of the Arizona BOW program. He has been involved since 1996. Previously he has taught camping and backpacking classes, but recently has helped with the outdoors and Dutch-oven cooking classes. He arrived Thursday night, his little pick up loaded with Dutch-ovens, utensils and various examples of firewood, all ready for the next day's classes.

Depending upon the dish that was being baked, different kinds of wood are used. During his class he described to the students the best kinds of wood to make the desired coals to match the meals. The class made a full course meal, all in Dutch-ovens. There was even peach cobbler for dessert!

His involvement doesn't end there. He arranged cowboy singers to entertain for us women on both evenings. He found a photographer to teach the class.



He is also a great bridge to the camp personnel. LV is an invaluable human resource to the Arizona BOW program.

Mark Hullinger

Mark is a veteran of the Arizona B O W .

He has been involved since its inception, teaching firearms, basic shotgun, and whatever else he was needed to teach. For instance, he recently teamed up with John Stevenson, retired from the BLM and AWF board member, to put together the map and compass course. I which the students test newly learned skills by following a traverse to find a spike hidden somewhere on the campgrounds.



Don Farmer

He is another past president of the Arizona Wildlife Federation. Don has been heavily involved in the Arizona BOW program for years. He is also a certified firearms safety instructor. We caught up with Don at camp on the porch behind the dining hall. There was an assortment of firearms on the table in front of him. Examples of rifles, shotguns, and handguns with various actions were present. They all belonged to him. On the porch with Don were a dozen women. Basic Firearms is a session that the women must take before they go on to the range the following day. He patiently answered their questions always emphasizing safety. The women were shown and practiced the correct way to handle a gun as well as range etiquette. Demystifying firearms to a non-shooting group was his task. He did it well.

Kathy & Don Greene

Husband and wife team Kathy and Don Greene have been volunteer BOW instructors since 1998. Kathy has been

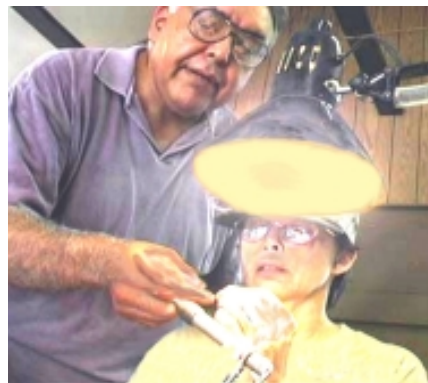
an archer for 17 years. She is a certified coach with the National Field Archery Association (NFAA), and a level 3 coach with the National Archery Association (NAA). She has been on the World Field Team. She has instructed various youth and adult archery classes in Tucson for over eight years. Kathy tries out regularly for National teams and has tried out twice for the USA Olympic Archery Team.

DeWane Tabbot

De Wane has been fly-fishing since 1982. He has fished extensively throughout the Western United States and Alaska. DeWane has been a certified fly fishing instructor with the Arizona Game and Fish Department for the last five years.

Jim Fraijo

Jim Fraijo is a second year instructor for the Arizona BOW. Jim is an active member in the Desert Fly casters, the Arizona Fly casters, and the Northern Arizona Fly casters. He is also the vice president of the local Trout Unlimited chapter. Fly-fishing began for him



in 1978 when he went to a show at the Civic plaza. He paid the Arizona Fly casters seven dollars for a seminar and he has been hooked ever since.

He truly loves teaching beginners fly tying and casting. He claims that anyone can learn to fish with a fly rod. For the BOW workshop Jim brought eight vises and all of the materials necessary for tying flies. He spent Saturday evening patiently showing the women the art of turning bits of feather, hair, and wire into realistic looking insects designed to fool a fish.

Dave Harner



Dave has been an instructor for the B O W workshop for the past four years. On Saturday morning of the latest BOW,

Dave and several of his colleges from the Prescott Paddle club loaded up their kayaks and met the class at nearby Goldwater Lake. The students knew the basic before they hit the water and lots of individualized attention was provided.

Dave has been a paddler and rower most of his life. He began paddling kayaks about 6 years ago. He has been a flat-water instructor for 4 years. He has but one requirement left to fulfill for his American Canoe Association instructor certification. He lives to teach beginning kayakers. To have the opportunity to turn people on to a sport that they can use the rest of their lives is a real joy for him.

Tim Lovern

Once upon a BOW camp Tim's buddy, Rob Trenk insisted that he accompany him for the weekend to Friendly Pines Camp. That was four years ago and he has been coming back ever since. Tim was raised



in an outdoor family. They do all types of camping but they enjoy wilderness camping the most. He was the backpacking and the camping instructor for the latest BOW camp. He enjoys the curious nature of the BOW women. It is refreshing for him because they lack the "macho B.S. baggage and competitive nature of men". He says that whether it is camping or archery, it is new and fun for them and it reflects on us (the instructors).

Robert Ohmart

"Dr. Bob" has lived in Arizona since 1963. He has a Ph.D. in vertebrate ecology from U of A. He now teaches classes in ornithology and ecology at ASU.

This was his first BOW experience. On both mornings he took those who got up early enough birding. He also helped with the Arizona wildlife class and taught the Wildlife habitat class. Webster says that ecology is the branch of biology that deals with relationships among living organisms and their environment. Dr. Bob took the science of ecology and put it into the vernacular for the BOW women. It was fun to watch as they pointed out to their fellow campers the acorns that the woodpeckers had stashed in the pine trees. As the weekend progressed, more campers were seeing and not just looking at their surroundings. For many it was a true eye opening experience. That is what BOW is all about.

Dick George

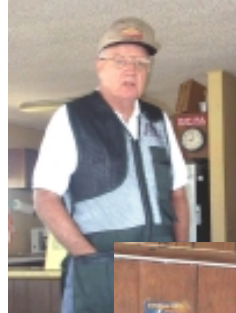
On Sunday a dozen women sat on the bleachers near the center of camp. Their instructor was Dick George. Dick is the Phoenix zoo photographer. He also teaches photography classes at ASU. This was his first BOW event.

His love of photography came through in this soft-spoken professor's mannerisms. His advice on cameras, lenses, and other gear was a refreshing change from this usually techno-crazy field. He spoke of f-stops and shutter speeds but mostly he talked about seeing. "Outdoor photo opportunities abound," he told them. Lots of places get overlooked. Teach yourself to see like a child and you will be amazed at how many good pictures you will take.

Later Dick said that it was a pleasure for him to have students that wanted to learn about photography and not just get a photography credit. Better to teach a handful of eager students for free than hundreds, who really didn't care, for a fee. Dick is willing to help expand the outdoor photography portion of the BOW workshop to include finished photos with a critique. He is a keeper.

Russ Gunderson & Roger Butler

Roger Butler and Russ Gunderson have been team-teaching BOW classes for 3 1/2 years. They teach both shotgun and handgun. Russ is a Level 1 Instructor, certified by the National Sporting Clays Association and a Skeet Instructor. He has been an AGFD Hunter Education Instruc-



tor since 1958 teaching both archery and firearms. He is a National Shooting Sports Foundation member, NRA Life and Benefactor member, NRA certified Chief Range Safety Officer. He is a holder of the NRA Distinguished Shotgun Award, a Master Class PPC pistol shooter and has Several State Class Championships in Skeet Shooting. And if that isn't enough he's also a certified instructor for the National Black Powder Shooter's Association.

It is the give and take between a mentor and apprentice that keeps the program fresh and fun. The woman leaves the camp, at best; ready to take on a new discipline. Hopefully feeling good after accomplishing something that she didn't think that she could do. At the very least she has a new understanding, a fun weekend and maybe some new friends.

The instructors at best change make an impact on an individual's lifestyle or teach skills that may eventually save a life. They get to feel good about themselves, as is the privilege of all volunteers. At the least they get a fun weekend to show off what they know to those who really want to learn.

It is a true win, win arrangement and we need to insure that this program continues.

For more information on volunteering for and/or attending the next BOW event see the announcement in this paper or contact the AWF at 480-644-0077, or Email us awf@azwildlife.org or visit our web site www.azwildlife.org

The Unsuitability of Livestock Grazing on the Tonto National Forest

By Jeff Burgess

If you drive from Phoenix to Payson on Arizona's Beeline Highway (87), take U.S. 60 to Globe, nurse your vehicle up the Apache Trail (88) to Roosevelt Lake in the Tonto Basin, or visit the water reservoirs on the Verde River, you will see thousands of acres of Sonoran Desert. And all of it lies within the boundaries of the Tonto National Forest.

The average person, I believe, would be surprised to learn that the U.S. Forest Service permits livestock grazing on these hot, dry and rugged lands. That's because it doesn't make any common sense. Nor does it make ecological sense, especially considering how cattle have degraded the Tonto's unique desert riparian areas.

But the cattle were there before the land was designated as a National Forest. And the Forest Service operates under a multiple use mandate, wherein livestock grazing is recognized as one of the allowable uses.

Some people would argue this means the Forest Service has no choice but to allow grazing to continue on the Tonto's Sonoran desert lands. The concept of multiple use, however, was legally defined by the 1976 Federal Land Policy and Management Act (FLPMA). This law describes it as managing all the various uses of public land to "best meet the present and future needs of the American people." It includes, "the use of some land for less than all of the resource," in a manner that avoids, "permanent impairment of the productivity of the land and the quality of the environment with consideration being given to the relative values of the resources and not necessarily to the combination of uses that will give the greatest economic return or the greatest unit output." In other words, federal land managers have the responsibility of determining which uses are appropriate for each area of public land.

Forest Service officials say these sorts of decisions, such as prohibiting livestock grazing on a large portion of a National Forest, should be done through a forest

plan revision, implemented through the National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA) public planning process. The problem is, forest plan amendments can be costly for the agency to administer and they take a long time to complete.

The Tonto announced its intent to revise its forest plan in 1999, but little progress has been made due to unforeseen complications. According to the Tonto's forest planner, Paul Stewart, they still intend to do a revision, but they do not yet have a timetable for its completion.

In the meantime, however, progress is being made in regards to grazing on the Tonto. Almost half of their 103 grazing allotments are currently not being grazed by cattle. A recent drought has played a big role in creating this situation. (If you can really label a dry period in the Sonoran desert as being abnormal.) Last year, the Tonto ordered cattle off about half a dozen allotments due to the drought, and grazing permittees voluntarily removed their cattle from about another two dozen. There are no current grazing permits for about another 17 allotments, including several in the Superstition Mountains. They haven't been reissued due to various reasons, including the potential for conflicts with recreationists, and the failure of previous permittees to comply with the law.

But not all of the progress towards restricting grazing on the Tonto is attributable to the drought, according to Eddie Alford, the forest's group leader for biological resources and planning. "We're making more headway implementing appropriate livestock management now than ever before," Alford recently told me. He reiterated that grazing allotments can't be permanently closed without a forest plan amendment, but he explained they are addressing natural resource issues on an individual basis, allotment by allotment, using the NEPA process, which is his agency's usual procedure.

"For each allotment, we look at the slope of the land and the soil condition.

We also look at the forage production. If the land is too steep, if soil conditions are poor, or if the land is producing less than 100 pounds per acre of perennial herbaceous vegetation, we classify those areas as not capable of being grazed by livestock," Alford said. Other factors, he explained, like restricting grazing in riparian areas and endangered species habitats, are also considered.

Forest Service officials make a big distinction between grazing capability and grazing suitability. They explain that the number of capable acres on a grazing allotment is used to adjust the permitted stocking level, while suitability refers to the appropriateness, considering their multiple use mandate, of allowing any grazing at all. They say that capability is addressed at the individual grazing allotment management planning level while suitability should be addressed at the overall forest plan level.

Even though the Tonto is making progress, especially when compared to some of Arizona's other national forests, many local conservationists see a unique opportunity in the fact that there are currently no cattle on much of the forest. And I'm one of them. It would be difficult, I believe, for the affected grazing permittees to claim the permanent closure of their allotments would create some sort of financial catastrophe since they aren't using them anyway. So, how can we prevent the Forest Service from allowing cattle to resume grazing on all of the Tonto's allotments that are not currently being grazed?

According to Alford, the grazing permittees that voluntarily removed their cattle due to the drought will be allowed to resume grazing once conditions improve, as long as no other resource issues arise in the meantime. Some of the other allotments, he explained, may have to undergo a NEPA analysis first. The talk about keeping cattle permanently off the drought affected allotments makes Alford nervous. "We're not all that

Unsuitable -- continued on Page 20

Elk Get Half, Sportsmen Get Access!

September Commission Meeting Highlights

By Dave Lukens, President WGA

After hours of briefings, public comment, and hot debate, the Arizona Game and Fish Commission voted three to one to approve a joint agreement between the Arizona Game and Fish Department (AGFD) and the Apache-Sitgreaves (A-S) National Forest to split available forage right down the middle between cattle and elk in Units 4B/3C. Given that the previous agreement of this type in Unit 4A had allocated 70 percent to cattle and only 30 percent to elk, this was a favorable decision for elk and elk hunters.

The A-S and AGFD told the Commission their initial analysis used 25 percent of annual forage growth as the amount available for grazing by elk and cattle combined. Leaving 75 percent of the forage ungrazed was deemed the quickest way to forest recovery. Commissioners were told the 25 percent annual utilization figure was not in concrete, pending further analysis in the development of grazing plans.

The A-S and AGFD emphasized the agreement applied to the 25 percent that the two agencies had agreed would be available for joint cattle-elk use. That really means 12.5 percent for cattle and

12.5 percent for elk. Ranchers and Commissioner Sue Chilton disagreed with almost every part of the analysis. Ranchers claimed the allotments were in great shape, and that forage production was as much as five times greater than estimated by the A-S numbers. They also stated that Dr. George Ruyle of the Governor's Rangeland Technical Review Council, a council critical of USFS attempts to reduce grazing, told them the analysis was all wrong for elk.

Commissioner Chilton was visibly angry and claimed HER grazing consultant believed total utilization should be 35 percent, instead of 25 and that it should all be allocated to domestic livestock. (Evidently he had never heard of the "multiple-use concept"!)

Incredibly, only two hunters, one each from AWF and Western Gamebird Alliance (WGA), testified in favor of the fifty/fifty split. More sportsmen should have been there. As things progressed, I felt approval was not "in the bag." Finally, Commissioners Manning, Golightly, and Carter approved the agreement. Commissioner Chilton voted against it. Commissioner Gilstrap was not present.

Another item of particular interest to

hunters had to do with access. AGFD has been trying to gain access to state trust land behind the Cowan Ranch in southeastern Arizona for about a year and a half. Rancher Ruth Cowan blocked every attempt, The Commission, with no other alternative, voted in March 2001 to build a 1/4-mile access road around her private property across state trust land. This should have been a no-brainer but wasn't. AGFD submitted an application for permission to cross state trust land to the Arizona State Land Department. Ms Cowan objected and caused such a fuss the land department sent a FAX to Game and Fish recommending they withdraw the application for "political" reasons and fear the issue might get to the press.

The Commission voted unanimously on the side of sportsmen to NOT withdraw the application and to continue with the project to bypass Ruth Cowan's ranch. In the meantime, we have been kept out too long and as WGA President, I wrote to Land Commissioner Anable asking for quick approval of the application, something other outdoor organizations should also do if there is any more delay in approving the application.

Lifetime Hunt / Fish License Presented to BOW Participant

Anna Schmidt, the recipient of the Arizona Wildlife Federation's annual raffle for a lifetime hunting and fishing license bought the lucky ticket at the April Becoming an Outdoors Woman workshop.

As last year, the winner gave the license to a relative. In Anna's case, her brother Rudy of Peoria.

The raffle drawing was held July 21, 2001.



Anna Schmidt, shown here with her brother Rudy Diaz (left), Arizona Game and Fish Department's Information and Education Director, Jim Burton and Arizona Wildlife Federation's Executive Director, Ken Haefner.

If Zane Grey Hunted Pronghorn Mesa -- Will Your Kids

*Forty Years Ago 2,000 Pronghorn roamed
Today less than 180 remain - and the*

Anderson Mesa is a unique grassland ecosystem located between Flagstaff and Payson. It once provided habitat so good that it grew world-class trophy bucks, and the herd was the state's largest. Current Arizona Game and Fish Department estimates are that the herd may be extinct in as little as five years. **How did we get to this point?**

Simply put, we got to this point because, to favor livestock, the Forest Service has turned Anderson Mesa into a pronghorn obstacle course, devoid of cover and with diminished quality forage. In the last fifty years:

- Thousands of miles of barbed wire fence were strung - fence that pronghorn antelope (which only go under, not over fences) could not negotiate.
- Fire was suppressed - so the grasslands could not rejuvenate themselves and Piñon and Juniper began taking over.
- Natural wetlands on the mesa that provided an abundance of the leafy plants pronghorn eat were drained and scooped out to make stock tanks for cattle.
- Deprived of fire, and with soil progressively compacted by cattle, plant species began dying off. 25% of the plant species identified on Anderson Mesa in 1961 no longer exist there.
- Combined with overgrazing, this lack of soil fertility means that plants don't grow as thick or high as they once did - providing less nutrition and a lack of hiding cover.

The net result of the last fifty years of Coconino National Forest grazing policy has been a 90% decline in the population of Pronghorn on Anderson Mesa !!

Without decent hiding cover, the fawns don't stand a chance.

Pronghorn Antelope females normally have two fawns born in the late spring. These fawns are helpless for the first few

days after birth - relying entirely on hiding in thick cover and their lack of scent to protect them from predators. However, on Anderson Mesa there isn't any cover. Cattle grazing typically leaves less than four inches of cover on the mesa. The fawns have no chance, out in the open and helpless. They are easy prey for the coyotes. Arizona Game and Fish Department studies showed that for the last decade, out of the 180 fawns born to 100 does, less than 10 survived. In comparison the AZGF estimates that a minimum survival rate of 40 fawns per 100 does is necessary for the herd **JUST TO STAY STATIC!!**

If we lose this famous herd, how can we save any of the others?

Anyone who has seen a herd of Pronghorn Antelope racing the wind across miles of grassland knows what majestic and special animals they are. These remarkable animals evolved here in North America more than 5 million years ago - the sole survivors of a unique family. Found only in North America, they are the second fastest land animal in the world reaching speeds clocked at 70 miles per hour. They can keep these speeds up for miles - easily outrunning the mountain lions and coyotes that are their natural predators. Hunters that hunt them grow



Unless drastic action is taken, the Anderson Mesa Pronghorn could become extinct

to love them. But if we can't save the most famous herd in the state, what hope do our other pronghorn herds have?

Pronghorn Antelope are in serious decline here in Arizona. Over the last forty years, pronghorn antelope have experienced a more serious decline than any other Arizona big game species. Unless we act now, pronghorn antelope hunting in Arizona may be doomed.

The Arizona Wildlife Federation is convinced we can save the Anderson Mesa pronghorn herd, but it will be a hard fight. **We need your help!** For the last 15 years the Coconino National Forest has ignored hunter demands that it take action to stop

Pronghorns on Anderson Ever Have the Chance?

*Save the Grasslands of Anderson Mesa.
The Forest Service Still Refuses to Act!*



Photo by George Andrejko, AGFD

Anderson Mesa Pronghorn Antelope herd in as little as five years

the pronghorn decline. Instead it has ignored the needs of wildlife, the wishes of thousands of Arizona hunters and conservationists, and catered to the two politically powerful landowners that run cattle on the public lands on Anderson Mesa. AWF is going to put an end to this and get these pronghorn the action they need - with your help!

**If the US Forest Service and the
Arizona Game and Fish Department
will let this famous pronghorn herd
go extinct, what wildlife
WILL they protect?**

What is the Arizona Wildlife Federation and why are they concerned about the Pronghorn Antelope on Anderson Mesa?

The Arizona Wildlife Federation (AWF) is the oldest conservation organization in Arizona. Founded in 1923 by sportsmen concerned about Arizona's fast declining wildlife, the organization has evolved over the years to become what it is today, a coalition of hunters and individuals and organizations from various backgrounds that share a common concern about the wel-

fare of Arizona's wildlife. The mission of the Arizona Wildlife Federation is "to educate, inspire, and assist individuals and organizations to conserve, enhance, manage and protect wildlife and other natural resources..."

The Arizona Wildlife Federation first became aware of the pronghorn antelope problems on Anderson Mesa in the mid 1980s, and urged agencies responsible for the welfare of the herd, the Coconino National Forest and the Arizona Game and Fish Department, to take action. Assurances were given that the problem would be addressed, but nothing happened. AWF volunteers replaced hundreds of miles of barbed wire fence with antelope friendly

fence, while the Coconino National Forest delayed action, and called for more studies. The 10 year grazing plans for the nine allotments on Anderson Mesa issued last time continued the high permitted grazing intensity, and contained no actions to rehabilitate pronghorn antelope. Over the next ten years the pronghorn population on the mesa dropped more than 60%.

Five of those nine grazing allotments are up for renewal again, and the Coconino National Forest has given every indication that they do not intend to significantly modify the grazing management plans to restore the pronghorn herd. This time around, AWF, backed by the National Wildlife Federation, has vowed to fight - in court if necessary.

What is the Arizona Wildlife Federation doing to save the Anderson Mesa Pronghorn Antelope herd?

- The Arizona Wildlife Federation issued notice to the Coconino National Forest that it is legally bound to take immediate steps to save the Anderson Mesa pronghorn antelope herd and will be held accountable in court if it fails to act..
- The AWF and the NWF have appealed the first of the grazing plans/environmental assessments for the five grazing allotments on Anderson Mesa. This plan ignored pronghorn antelope completely, and proposed raising the numbers of cattle permitted to graze.
- AWF/NWF has stated clearly that unless a comprehensive plan to restore antelope populations is developed and implemented on Anderson Mesa, including grazing management plans that give priority to pronghorn restoration, we will take legal action against the Coconino National Forest and the

Your Kids-- continued on Page 20

Mount Graham Misery

As the trees go, so go the red squirrels.

By Tom Jackson King

The endangered Mount Graham red squirrel is struggling to survive on the mountain, with the latest population survey showing just 326 likely living there—a drop of more than 200 since the spring 1999 survey documented 550 squirrels.

The main culprit in the squirrel number drop seems to be a die-off of more than 16,000 spruce and fir trees, which produce the squirrel's preferred food—seeds from cones.

"Spruce and fir trees in the higher elevations continue to be decimated by insect infestation," said Genice Froehlich, wildlife staff officer for the Safford Ranger District of the Coronado National Forest.

"We anticipated decreases in activity in the spruce-fir areas, but [squirrel] midden use in the transition and mixed conifer areas also appears to be decreasing," she said. Previous squirrel counts over recent years have been much higher. In fall 1998, 549 squirrels were estimated to be present. That number fell to 528 in fall 1999, then 474 in fall 2000, according to USFS records. The spring 2001 estimate is about 326 squirrels—a number that has not been seen for nearly a decade.

Froehlich has been warning that as the number of insect-killed trees increases, she expected to see lower numbers of red squirrels. In the fall of 1999, Froehlich said, "An increase in the number of spruce trees killed by spruce beetle infestation coupled with a poor spruce cone crop seem to have resulted in a decrease in midden activity in areas with Engelmann spruce trees.

"We've been experiencing some die-off in the spruce forest. As a result, we are seeing drops in squirrel occupancy rate, especially in spruce, that are fairly drastic. As more spruce trees die, the rates

of occupancy may decline," Froehlich said nearly two years ago.

That prediction has now come true to a dramatic extent.

"The main thing I want to reiterate," she said recently, "is this infestation is far from over. Maybe 16,000 trees were killed last year. It could be the same number this year."

Froehlich said the options of chemically treating individual trees or selectively cutting them aren't promising.

"The infestation is so widespread, it's pretty useless to do any forest-wide

past years, construction of an astrophysical facility and a possible shift of squirrel activity to areas lower in elevation on the mountain.

Robin Silver of the Center for Biological Diversity in Tucson blames the population drop on the construction of telescopes on the mountain by the University of Arizona, and a loss of squirrel habitat.

"The squirrels are endangered because of piecemeal loss of habitat. The controllable piecemeal loss to date is the loss of 1,000 trees and interference with squirrel migration by astronomers. Also,

fire suppression activities are aimed solely at saving Columbine Cabin. They jeopardize the squirrel," he said.

"The only variable we can control is to make sure habitat destruction is stopped. That means that the telescopes should be removed, along with Columbine Cabin and the Bible Camp, and habitat restoration should be pursued as soon as possible," Silver said.

Buddy Powell of Steward Observatory, which operates the three telescopes now on top of Mount Graham, said

squirrel numbers actually increased in the 1990s during the time of major telescope construction.

"We've been on the mountain since 1989, and during the heavy construction, squirrel population went from about 125 to 550. We know well over 1,000 acres are affected by bug infestation. From the LBT, we see massive devastation of the spruce and fir. We're only eight acres—we're just 8/1,000ths of this issue," he said.

"We have a very small footprint on this mountain. The bottom line is, if 1,000 acres were killed by bugs, how much impact did eight acres have?"

Misery -- continued on Page 20



treatment. And stepping up our controlled burning in the spruce and fir forest would not help. It will kill all the live trees if we burn in the spruce and fir," she said.

At present, Coronado National Forest has burned about 75 acres out of 1,100 acres approved for controlled burns. The forest gained approval for burning 1,100 acres over five years from the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service in October 2000.

OTHER FACTORS causing the drop in squirrel numbers, according to the Forest Service, are loss of habitat caused by the Clark Peak fire in 1996, successive years with poor cone crops, winter snow accumulations that have been absent in

Settlement Provides Overdue Protections for Arizona's Verde River

PHOENIX, Ariz. September 28, 2001)— A federal judge approved a settlement today between six conservation groups and the USDA Forest Service that will provide long overdue protections to Arizona's Verde River. The settlement requires the Forest Service to immediately step up its presence on the river and to complete a comprehensive management plan within 30 months that should have been prepared when the forty mile stretch of the Verde was designated a National Wild and Scenic River 16 years ago.

"The public will see improved management right away and the Forest Service has a reasonable amount of time to fulfill its obligations," said Matthew Bishop, an attorney for the Western Environmental

Law Center, who represented the plaintiff organizations. "By retaining jurisdiction, the court can hold the Forest Service accountable if they don't follow through."

In setting the lawsuit, filed in October, 2000, by the Western Environmental Law Center on behalf of the plaintiffs, the Forest Service acknowledged that it had violated the Wild and Scenic Rivers Act by failing to prepare a comprehensive management plan for Arizona's Verde Wild and Scenic River. The designated stretch of the Verde — Arizona's only National Wild and Scenic River — flows through the Tonto, Coconino, and Prescott National Forests

"We have been concerned for over 20 years about irresponsible livestock grazing and unenforced regulations concerning recreational abusers and vandals," said Don Farmer, past President of the Arizona Wildlife Federation. "It seems a shame that the a lawsuit was necessary to get these three Forests to work together to deal with these issues."

One of the state's only rivers that flows throughout the year, Congress designated the Verde a wild and scenic river back in 1984 due to the river's "outstandingly remarkable values." The river

holds the record for the highest bird density ever recorded in North America — including a unique population of desert-nesting bald eagles — and five rare species of fish. There are many sites of cultural, historical, and geological value in the surrounding area.

In addition to the pledge to complete a joint wild and scenic river management plan for the three forests, the Forest Service agreed to a number of interim steps



Photos by Don Farmer

to improve grazing practices along the river, such as repairing fences that control livestock's access to the river, and to send forest rangers down the river more frequently to spot problems and initiate corrective actions. The Forest Service also pledged to step up law enforcement and better regulate recreation to ensure a quality experience for visitors. At present, camping facilities are poorly maintained, resulting in damaged habitat and excessive trash and human and animal waste.

"Now the real work begins," said Tim Flood, Conservation Coordinator for Friends of Arizona Rivers. "We're looking forward to a management plan that gives meaningful protection for the river's habitat and that determines how much water needs to remain in the river to support wildlife and recreational opportunities."

"By stepping up its active presence on the river immediately, the Forest Service will improve visitors' experiences

on the river and reinforce the perception that this river is special and should be treated with respect," said Bob Witzeman with the Maricopa Audubon Society.

The U.S. Forest Service: A half-hearted embrace for Wild and Scenic Rivers

The original mission of National Forest System when it was established in the late 1800s was to protect rivers and their watersheds, which at that time were suffering from erosion and other impacts from unregulated commercial logging. More than 60 million Americans still get their drinking water from Forest Service lands.

Today, as many as 22 of the 97 Wild and Scenic Rivers within national forests lack adequate management plans to ensure that the rivers' unique values are maintained. The Forest Service often cites the lack of funding as the primary reason from this problem.

The hundreds of conservation organizations that sign on to American Rivers' annual "River Budget" recommend a funding level of \$9 million annually for the management of existing Wild and Scenic Rivers flowing through National Forests, and an additional \$3 million for studies to determine the eligibility of additional river reaches.

"The court's readiness to enforce the Wild and Scenic River Act should send a clear signal to the Forest Service that it is time to get moving on its outstanding obligations," said Kristen McDonald, American Rivers' Associate Director for Wild and Scenic Rivers.

For more information about the National Wild and Scenic River System and American Rivers' efforts to preserve them for future generations, point your browser to: <http://www.americanrivers.org/wildscenic/default.htm>

American Rivers • Arizona Wildlife Federation • Central Arizona Paddlers Club • Maricopa Audubon Society • Friends of Arizona Rivers • Sierra Club, Grand Canyon Chapter • Western Environmental Law Center

Cochise County Comments:

PROTECTING VENOMOUS REPTILES IN ARIZONA

By Jerome J. Pratt

The Gila monster has enjoyed a protective status in Arizona since 1953. The Gila monster and its cousin, the Mexican beaded lizard are the world's only venomous lizards. There was public support in protecting this species to prevent its extirpation from over collection to satisfy the curio trade. But when rattlesnakes were added to the protected list in 1968, law enforcement officers found some prosecutors and judges reluctant to punish someone for killing a rattlesnake.



Photo By George Andrejko AGFD

Gila monster

On September 14, 1977, Barton Dale Lindner-of Ramsey Canyon was brought to trial in Cochise County Court in Sierra Vista charged with nine counts of game law violations, possessing protected species of reptiles. Seven of the charges were plea bargained by the County Attorney's office and one charge was dismissed. The trial lasted six hours, and to the frustration of the Game and Fish Department law enforcement officers, who had worked undercover for weeks

on the case, the judge fined Lindner \$365 and then suspended the sentence. So in reality, the culprit got off scot-free.

It was evident, judges and prosecutors needed to be educated in wildlife laws. In 1978, the Arizona Game and Fish Department published PROTECTED REPTILES OF ARIZONA - A FIELD GUIDE FOR SOUTHERN ARIZONA PEACE OFFICERS. In the introduction it states:

"Cochise County and portions of adjacent counties became the reptile capitol of the United States, attracting many scholars, students, hobbyists and even animal dealers. These groups normally pursue their interests by hunting and collecting specimens. Prized animals are those unusual and difficult-



Photo By George Andrejko, AGFD

ridge-nosed rattlesnake

to-find reptiles which occur in a few canyons of southeastern Arizona's highest mountain ranges.

Three species of rattlesnakes are

found in specialized habitats in this area and need protection, they are: ridge-nosed or Willard's (Croalus willard, rock (Croalus lepidus), and twin spotted (Croalus price). All of them small species, never reaching a length of much over two feet.

For educational purposes, the Game Management Division at Fort Huachuca maintained a live reptile collection



Photo By George Andrejko, AGFD

twin spotted rattlesnake

which included a Willard's rattlesnake. There was an occasion when a visitor viewing the collection showed a special interest in this snake. The next morning it was discovered the building had been broken into and the snake was missing.

The staff had a description of the suspect and he had mentioned being from California. State wildlife officials were notified because it had just been announced that the Willard's rattlesnake had been put on the protected list.

Venomous -- continued on Page 23

CONSERVATION GENERAL RETIRES

By Jerome J. Pratt

John D. Thomas, Jr., commenced his military career as an enlisted man in 1968. He retired as a Major General after a Change of Command ceremony at Fort Huachuca on September 11, 2001. The same day terrorists struck the World Trade Center and The Pentagon. General Thomas had assumed command of the U. S. Army Intelligence Center and Fort Huachuca on June 18, 1998 and immediately became personally involved in the management of the Installation's natural resources.

In May 1994, Major General John F. Stewart, then commander, established a Fort Huachuca Conservation Committee as

a means of exchanging dialogue with other agencies and organizations. I was invited to participate as representative of the Arizona Wildlife Federation. General Stewart delegated responsibility for the committee to the Garrison Commander and the first meeting was called on June 8, 1994. However, when General Thomas arrived he took over and personally presided over the quarterly meetings. I have attended every meeting since the committee was formed.

In recognition of his personal involvement in Fort Huachuca's environmental programs, the Arizona Game and Fish Commission in January

2000 presented General Thomas with an "Award of Excellence." It was the first time a high-ranking military officer had ever been so honored.

In 2001, the Commission named Fort Huachuca the "Conservation Organization of the Year." Speaking for the Commission, Pat O'Brien said the Fort had been chosen from a number of entries. It was stated, "The Fort Huachuca Military Reservation is an outstanding example of a government agency which has excelled in enhancing wildlife welfare."

General and Mrs. Thomas will be missed in the community, but they have purchased land in Sierra Vista and plan to return when ready to fully retire.

Spring Hunts for Cow Elk and Increased Annual Bag Limits

Public Input Sought On Long-Term Elk Harvest Strategies

Should a “hunter pool” be created for the Game and Fish Department to draw upon if an unexpected need arises to harvest more elk?

These are just some of the questions being asked through a series of public meetings around the state on the Game and Fish Department’s “Elk Harvest Management Strategies,” and the possible Game and Fish Commission Rule changes that could be necessary to implement those strategies.

The Elk Harvest Management Strategies and related information are posted on the department’s Internet Home Page at www.azgfd.com, and look under “What’s New.” Written comments on the proposals can be sent to: Dana Yost, Rule Writer, Arizona Game and Fish Department, 2221 W. Greenway Road, DORR, Phoenix, AZ 85023, or E-mail: rulemaking@gf.state.az.us.

Assistant Director Mike Senn, Field Operations Division, said this is another step in an ongoing public process to address the myriad of issues surrounding Arizona’s elk management.

Senn explained that top elk managers in the state were assembled into an Elk Harvest Management Strategy Team this past spring. Those experienced wildlife professionals were asked to be creative and come up with a range of elk management proposals and tools, including those that might be considered “unconventional.”

The team developed short-term strategies within existing regulatory and hunt frameworks, and long-term strategies including those that would require some sort of regulatory changes in the future.

Many of the short-term strategies were implemented by the Game and Fish Commission this year when setting the fall elk hunts. However, many of the long-term strategies need Commission Rule modifications to be implemented.

Pinetop Regional Supervisor Richard Remington, who chaired the Elk Management Strategy Team, told the Game and Fish Commission Aug. 11 that the department is looking to “triple” the amount of public involvement it normally does when modifying a Commission Rule.

The department is conducting public meetings across the state starting in September so that as many people as possible can engage in a wide-ranging discussion before seeking final commission direction to draft rule change proposals.

Deputy Director Steve Ferrell explained that typically a draft commission rule is proposed and then public hearings are conducted. This time, he said, the public is also being involved well in advance of rule modifications being drafted.

The following public meetings are scheduled:

Date Location (All meetings begin at 7 p.m.)
Meetings were held:

Oct. 16, 2001 Yavapai County Building, Board of Supervisor’s Meeting Room 1015 Fair Street, **Prescott**

Oct. 17, 2001 Arizona Game and Fish Department, Region III Office 5325 N. Stockton Hill Rd., **Kingman**

Oct. 18, 2001 Arizona Game and Fish Department, Region IV Office 9140 E. 28th St., **Yuma**

The concept of creating a “hunter pool” would allow the department to conduct hunts on short notice when necessary to meet harvest objectives, or to respond to an unanticipated crisis.

This “hunter pool” could be used to provide hunters on short notice for emergency hunts. “Emergency hunts may be used in extreme drought conditions when land management agencies request elk removal, or in locations where traditional harvest objectives are not met during regular seasons and additional harvest is needed quickly to alleviate private or public resource issues,” states the Elk Harvest

Management Strategy Team Report.

Another part of the process to address elk issues was the recent Governor’s Elk Symposium conducted at the Phoenix Civic Plaza on June 23. The Udall Center for Public Policy at the University of Arizona is analyzing the public input gathered at the symposium.

“The public input from the Governor’s Elk Symposium will provide us with additional information on avenues to follow, or not follow, in addressing Arizona’s elk issues,” said Assistant Director Jim Burton, Information and Education Division.

The following rules are being considered for modification for the following objectives:

☛ R12-4-101 is being opened to allow the department to address recommendations from the Elk Harvest Strategy Management Report that deal with the developing hunter pools, and issuing special nonpermit-tags through regional offices. These recommendations may require the revision of existing definitions or the addition of new definitions to facilitate future elk management.

☛ R12-4-102 is being opened to allow the department to address recommendations from the Elk Harvest Strategy Management Report that will potentially impact prices for certain tags, such as hunt permit-tags that are not issued during the random draw, or nonpermit tags for limited opportunity hunts, or hunter pool hunts. The recommendation to adjust the price of these or other tags necessitates opening this rule.

☛ R12-4-104 is being opened to allow the department to address recommendations from the Elk Harvest Strategy Management Report that may result in increasing bag limits for elk. The procedure for obtaining additional hunt permit-tags or nonpermit tags may require a change in the current application procedures.

Spring Elk -- continued on Page 21

Habitat Project Targets Bears

Arizona Black Bear Association Installs Food Lockers

By Michael Schenck, ABBA President

Hopefully, black bears and other wildlife will be experiencing a food shortage along Tonto Creek this fall and in the future. If the Arizona Black Bear Association's recent habitat project is successful, that is exactly what will take place. No, the organization isn't determined to starve out the waterway's natural residents. But it is intent on helping campers and other recreation enthusiasts from encouraging their habituation to human food and garbage.

Bears, particularly, have a wide range in diet and feeding patterns. They make use of almost all natural foods, including acorns and manzanita berries, water plants, ants and grubs and much more. They also seem to enjoy most of the foods people eat, as well. In fact, a bear's nose will not only be drawn to the enticing smells of hamburgers, potato chips and watermelon, it may also be attracted to such things as toothpaste, bug spray, or hand cream.

Once accustomed to scavenging for scraps left behind by careless visitors or raiding unsecured dumpsters for garbage, black bears can quickly become dependent on this artificial food source. After they claim an area for their own or lose their fear of humans, they can become a nuisance or even a menace. Often, Game and Fish is left with no recourse but to relocate or even destroy the animal.

But the Arizona Black Bear Association believes it can provide a better solution. In June, the ABBA installed a number of bear-resistant food storage lockers designed to eliminate this

option for the far ranging bruins. Set in dispersed campsites along Tonto Creek between the USFS campground and the Horton Creek Picnic area, the heavy-duty containers will hold a 100 quart cooler with room to spare. A unique latching system is engineered to allow easy entrance for campers but frustrate access by bears. The lockers are well anchored to assure a determined black bear will not roll the box over in its attempt to capture the contents. Each container displays a sign warning campers "Bears like people food, too!"



Photo by George Andrejko, AGFD



Photo by Mike Schenck

ABBA also believes the boxes represent an educational tool. By making recreationists aware of the potential for bear encounters, they can assist in preventing a negative situation from developing. For a healthy bear population to continue as our state's population expands, human attitudes toward wildlife are a critical factor. We can share the habitat but humans must accept responsibility for avoiding conflicts.

The installation was in cooperation with Tonto National Forest officials. USFS Payson District's Walt Thole met with the ABBA to select sites. The area was chosen because bears are commonly found following the watercourse and sometimes climb the stream banks to investigate camps.

The ABBA has additional projects planned for the fall. For information, contact the group through its web site at www.azblackbear.com

Triple Treat - continued from Page 4
low as five or so. There seems to be a constant parade of young birds since early spring. Every time I think they are done, I see more bumblebee-sized quail. If nothing cataclysmic happens, we are in for a good Gambel's year," Babb observed. Scaled quail reproduction is more dependent on spring and early summer rainfall. Mearns's quail reproduction is keyed to summer rainfall. Both Mearns' and scaled quail are found in southeastern Arizona. The good spring and summer rainfall in that area has set the stage for good reproduction for those two species as well.

"So far it is looking like Gambel's reproduction in southern Arizona is very good to excellent, but we started with a pretty low base population," explained Ron Olding, Tucson regional wildlife program manager.

Call counts were high this spring and brood sizes have been good to exceptional. "I still believe that we will have at least an average to slightly above average year due to the abundant juveniles available to bag."

Summer rains started early in southern Arizona, but until this past week were a little below average. "In this past week, some areas received their typical summer rainfall amounts – all in two-days' time. Many areas have greened up nicely this summer. The area from Sierra Vista to Nogales is lush and green with knee-high grass. I'm highly optimistic it could be good for Mearns' and much improved for Gambel's and scaled, making it a pretty good year for all three," Olding predicted.

Babb, who is a dedicated quail hunter, also predicts a good year for all three species. "This will be the first year in a long time where hunters can expect good numbers of all three of our huntable quail species. Incredible as it may seem, Mearns' could actually be better than last year in many areas."

Quail Season Information

Open Dates: Oct. 12 for Gambel's Scaled and California Quail, Nov. 23 for Mearns'

Bag Limit – 15 quail per day

Possession Limit – 30 quail after opening day of which no more than 15 may be taken in any one day.

Killing Lions Isn't Solution to Sheep Woes

Arizona Daily Sun -8/10/2001

By Dave Gowdey

It is said that those who refuse to learn from history are condemned to repeat it. In Arizona, we seem to be more reluctant to learn from history than most, at least where wildlife is concerned.

This occasionally results in some spirited debates, and often some spectacular failures. It appears as though one of these spirited debates may have recently started with an Arizona Game and Fish Department proposal to kill 11 mountain lions to assess the impact of predator control on the rapidly declining population of desert bighorn sheep in the Goat/Stewart Mountain area.

The problem outlined by the Game and Fish is that the population of rare desert bighorn sheep, reintroduced to the area in 1981, has been on a steady decline since 1995. The remains of a number of radio-collared sheep were found to have been killed by mountain lions. Lions accounted for more than 70 percent of the total number of radio-collared sheep killed. This is a far higher rate than other studies indicate is normal.

Game and Fish wants to eliminate 75 percent of the mountain lions in the area — 11 lions — to study the impact of predator reduction on the herd. At the same time they plan to study potential nutritional and health causes for the decline.

Game and Fish Research Branch Chief Jim DeVos made a good case for the study when I talked with him last week. I thought long and hard about what he said. I understand that mountain lions are thriving in Arizona, and that killing 11 mountain lions is not going to make any serious dent in the mountain lion population. I also understand why Game and Fish is concerned about the population of desert bighorn sheep a species that was flirting with extinction just four decades ago. But after careful consideration, something just rubs me the wrong way about this whole thing.

Predator control is a very tricky issue. I was raised with cautionary tales of the famous North Kaibab experiment of the early part of the last century. The mule deer herd was famous throughout the

country for producing the biggest bucks. But hunters and game managers also noticed the plateau supported a very high population of mountain lions. They reasoned that these mountain lions ate too many deer and kept the deer population artificially low, so they launched a concerted campaign to wipe out the mountain lions, and they pretty much succeeded.

The next year there were more deer, as there were the year after that. Game managers were patting themselves on the back. But in the third year folks began to notice that the deer were smaller and looked less healthy, though the herd was now enormous.

In the fourth year the huge herd of thin deer had to eat everything to survive, pine bark, saplings, every blade of grass and browse. That winter the starvation began. Tens of thousands of deer starved to death. Only a fraction of the herd survived, and it took decades for the herd to get back to the point it was before the predators had been killed.

We learned, at an enormously high cost, that the deer and the ecosystem needed the predators as much as the predators needed the deer.

When I look at the bighorn sheep situation in Goat Mountain, I can't stop thoughts of the Kaibab from springing to mind. We know that mountain lions and bighorn sheep evolved together over millions of years, with large populations of bighorn sheep coexisting with large populations of mountain lions for most of that time. We know that at Goat/Stewart Mountain for the first 10 or 15 years the bighorn herd increased steadily despite the same population of mountain lions. So why all of a sudden have the mountain lions become such a problem for bighorns that they need to be destroyed?

Aldo Leopold, the founder of game management and one of the great hunter/conservationists, wrote, "In general, the trend of evidence indicates that in land (the ecosystem), just as in the human body, the symptoms may lie in one organ and the cause in another. ...When prairie dogs and ground squirrels or mice increase to pest levels we poison them,

but we do not look beyond the animal to find the cause of the irruption. We assume the animal troubles must have animal causes. The latest scientific evidence points to derangement's of the plant community as the real seat of rodent irruptions."

What old Aldo was saying is that if mountain lions all of a sudden are killing off bighorn sheep at an elevated rate, the cause probably doesn't lie either with the mountain lions or the bighorn sheep. The cause lies somewhere else, in some new variable that is suddenly making the bighorns more vulnerable to predation.

There are a number of things that could be making mountain lions eat a higher percentage of bighorn sheep in the Goat/Stewart Mountain area. Climactic conditions affecting cover and browse could be one, as could the prevalence of a type of ecthyma in the herd. The spread of infection from domestic sheep (notorious for wiping out populations of bighorn sheep elsewhere), which traverse the area twice per year, could also be a cause. Another contributing factor could also be the decline of mule deer, which are making the lions focus more on bighorn sheep. There are a lot of factors that could be causing the decline.

Given these circumstances, the drastic prescription of killing 75 percent of the mountain lions in the area for a three-year study seems ill conceived. We know that the bighorn population will experience a short-term "bounce" as the predators are killed, just as they did on the Kaibab.

However, this may actually serve to mask the real cause of the bighorn decline, and when other mountain lions move in, as they quickly will, the herd may be just as vulnerable as ever. In fact, other predators, such as ever opportunistic coyotes, might increase in the absence of mountain lions and cause even more damage. The point being that if this is to be a true study rather than a predator control policy, then it seems that the other causes should be ruled out conclusively before we start killing mountain lions.

Like most hunters I talk with, I see *Sheep Woes* -- continued on Page 20

Your Kids - Continued from page 13

Forest Service to force them to act.

- The AWF hired the top pronghorn antelope expert in the world, Dr. Jim Yoakum, to evaluate the pronghorn antelope situation on Anderson Mesa. Dr. Yoakum's initial findings appear to confirm that the mismanagement of habitat on Anderson Mesa is the root cause for the pronghorn antelope decline.
- The AWF hired Dr. Art Phillips, an expert botanist, to evaluate the state of the grasses and plants on the mesa. Dr. Phillips found that there has been a 25% loss of plant diversity overall on the mesa since

1961, and a 41% decline in the diversity of leafy plants known as forbs. Forbs are the mainstay of a pronghorn's diet, and are vital to their survival.

There are four things you can do to help the pronghorn antelope on Anderson Mesa:

1. Contribute to our Anderson Mesa Pronghorn Antelope Campaign. Your contributions will fund our efforts to force the Coconino National Forest to take action to save the Anderson Mesa pronghorn herd.
2. Contact the Coconino National Forest, and the Arizona Game and

Fish Department and tell them you want significant action NOW to save the Anderson Mesa pronghorn antelope herd. Use the enclosed cards as guides.

3. Join AWF and help us in our fight to restore not just the Anderson Mesa pronghorn herd, but all of Arizona's wildlife.
4. Join our volunteer force and work on projects to help save the Anderson Mesa pronghorn herd.

Teddy Roosevelt taught us that hunters acting together can save America's wildlife. Let's save the Anderson Mesa herd!!

Unsuitable - Continued from page 10

popular in the ranching community right now. We don't want to lose any ground," he said.

In fact, complaints from the Tonto's ranchers made the regional forester, Eleanor Towns, with encouragement from her director of rangeland management, Dave Stewart, require several of the Tonto's staff to waste time last year visiting a ranch in Nevada where easy solutions to livestock grazing problems were supposedly being found through a collaborative process using holistic resource management (HRM). To the credit of the Tonto's staff, they later told the regional office they weren't

interested in adopting it. Local grazing activists helped by pointing out to regional officials that the ecological theories incorporated in HRM have been discredited by scientific research and the scheme would serve mainly to enrich HRM consultants at the public's expense.

But if a handful of ranchers can exert enough pressure to get the Forest Service's regional office to seriously consider implementing an expensive lame-brain HRM scheme that promises everything to everyone, then think of how much influence a coordinated effort by Arizona's conservation community could have in convincing the agency to address

the suitability of livestock grazing on their Sonoran desert lands. I believe the time is right to try it so I'm writing Tonto National Forest supervisor, Karl Siderits, suggesting that he should consider a forest plan amendment to permanently retire the Tonto's Sonoran desert allotments due to their unsuitability for grazing. I'm also going to ask him to keep cattle off the currently vacant allotments until the amendment is completed. I hope you will write him too:

Mr. Karl Siderits, Supervisor
Tonto National Forest
2324 E. McDowell Road
Phoenix, AZ 85006

Misery - Continued from page 14

JEFF HUMPHREY, A SPOKESMAN for U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service and the agency that oversees the recovery of endangered species, said large die-off of spruce and fir trees and the drop in squirrel numbers have caused the agency to reevaluate its species recovery plan.

"The condition of the forest there is of great concern to us. So we contacted a number of people to see if we can reconvene a recovery team," he said.

Members of the new team will include representatives from the Forest Service, AGF, USFWS and independent specialists in rodents and tree succession.

"I imagine initially they'll do some review of how squirrels can survive on Mount Graham given the present forest

conditions. Can they move? Are they moving? Is there enough habitat to maintain them?" he said.

When asked whether captive breeding of squirrels was an option, Humphrey said, "That is an option. Its viability would be studied."

When asked if another option included the removal of the three telescopes now atop the mountain, Humphrey said, "It's something we're not considering right now."

He did point out that the telescope presence "opens the canopy" of the forest and thereby changes the forest microclimate in unpredictable ways.

Humphrey pointed out the die-off of trees and the drop in squirrel numbers may be a part of the natural biological

order on Mount Graham.

"There's evidence that die-offs like this have occurred over the millennia, and they have probably had a role in the natural cycle on Mount Graham. We need to assess if this current cycle is something the [squirrel] species can tolerate, like it probably has in the past," he said.

Humphrey also raised a concern about the fire danger from thousands of standing dead trees. Such fires could spread to healthy parts of the forest on Mount Graham. He said his agency and the Forest Service are looking at ways to expedite controlled burns to reduce the fire danger from standing dead timber.

This article first appeared in the Eastern Arizona Courier. Address: Tom Jackson King, P.O. Box N, Safford, AZ 85548.

Sheep Woes - Continued from page 19

predator control as a temporary measure at best, and a misleading policy designed to take attention away from root problems in habitat management at

worst. If predators all of a sudden start killing too many game species, it means the whole system is out of whack. The Goat/Stewart Mountain proposal, from what I've read so far, seems ill-conceived

to me for just these reasons.

Dave Gowdey can be reached by e-mail at nfhcrdm@infomagic.com

Knipe - Continued from page 6

Thorpe, Charlie Beach, and other notables whose names I have carelessly forgotten. Ted also had a long-standing rapport with many of the more notable sportsmen of the day, and he was on a first name basis with Jack O'Connor, Carroll Lemon, and George Parker. Never mind that he himself never hunted. He extolled hunters and hunting as the best means to maintain our wildlife heritage, and encouraged his men to hunt. He just couldn't get himself to kill anything.

Ted may not have talked much, but he wrote plenty. He took notes on the wildlife he observed, and insisted we write a complete report on every survey we conducted. During his early tenure with the Department, he had written an important booklet on northern Arizona's pronghorn, and he later wrote a book on the natural history of the collared peccary, *The Javelina in Arizona*, which remains a well-deserved classic. Later, after his retirement, he would write another book on the Coues white-tailed deer, but this effort was less successful. The Department had by now become more interested in data than in natural history, and the book's biases against predators and grazing made for heavy editing and a less than satisfactory parting from the Department.

I well remember the Fourth of July evening when a tragic car accident cost our regional secretary her life and heralded the close of Ted's career with

the Department. Trying to elude a pursuing police car, a drunken driver had switched off his headlights and increased his speed. Ted never had a chance to see the oncoming car as his Game and Fish Department Wagoneer emerged from the Saint Mary's underpass. Only a man as field-hardened as Ted Knipe could have survived such an impact. But Ted was a tough *hombre*. More than six-feet tall, lean and weather-worn, he was the Western Man personified. He always wore a Stetson, and I can see his crinkled blue eyes and set jaw just as clearly as if he were standing here before me. But hardened as he was, he never appeared to me to have quite regained his former strength and stature. Ted retired soon after his recovery, and I left Tucson soon after that. It wasn't that the new supervisor was a bad fellow, he just wasn't Ted Knipe and it wasn't the same working for another regional supervisor.

Ted retired to live with his new wife, Rosa, in a house near Sonoita, which had previously been owned by John Carr, one of his wildlife managers. Here he took up a number of community causes, including an effort to preserve the Sonoita Valley grasslands by founding the Santa Cruz County Forum for the Greater Outdoors. Earlier, he had assisted in preserving his family's holdings on Ciénega Creek by convincing his family to sell the property to The Nature Conservancy at less than market value. His sense of history resulted in other contributions, and he

wrote several well-done articles on the Department's early wildlife efforts, including wonderfully humorous articles on an orphaned male pronghorn named "Amorous Andy" and a white-tailed doe named "Suzie." His greatest contribution, however, was to index all of the wildlife entries in the early editions (1875-1912) of the *Arizona Weekly Star*, and, later, the *Arizona Daily Star*. These entries, deposited in the Arizona Historical Society as The Knipe Collection, remain an invaluable source of information on early wildlife conditions in Arizona. Equally interesting, if they could somehow be retrieved, are his copious notes and memoranda on habitat conditions in southern Arizona between 1940 and 1990.

There are only a few who remember Ted Knipe. Such is the price of having a long life. He had some accomplished brothers and sisters, but only one sister, Betty, is still alive. A son, Ted Knipe, Jr., and his second wife Rosa survive him along with a stepson, David Hunt. But not many people recall his tenure as Region VI Supervisor. But those that do—Gerry Day, John Carr, Mike Yaeger, John Stair, Paul Webb, Steve Gallizioli, and other Department retirees come to mind—have missed him for a long time, and I suspect that others have too. Ted Knipe was an important figure in my life and he always will be. One of the many things for which I am forever grateful is that I told him so a long time ago.

Spring Elk - Continued from page 17

Another recommendation from the Elk Harvest Management Strategy Report is the possible addition of a spring elk hunt season. If the commission adopts this strategy, R12-4-104 may need to be amended to allow for elk hunters to apply for more than one elk hunt permit-tag in a calendar year.

R12-4-107 is being opened to allow the department to address the issue of bonus points as it relates to the Elk Harvest Management Strategy Report recommendation that elk hunt permit-tags that are not issued during the random draw process be issued in a first-come first-serve drawing, or over the counter. This rule review process will also address how multiple bag limits for elk and multiple elk hunt permit-tags and nonpermit tags issued during a single calendar year will impact the

bonus point system.

R12-4-114 is being opened to allow the department to address recommendations from the Elk Harvest Strategy Management Report for possible changes to the bag limit for elk and to the non-resident participation regulations in regards to the 10 percent rule.

Opening the rule will also allow the department to address how "limited elk" permits could be made available and how they could be issued to meet the recommendations of the Elk Harvest Management Strategy Report concept of a "hunter pool." (Note: The recommendation is that these be nonpermit tags and available only at regional offices at specific times.)

R12-4-115 – Is being opened to allow the department to address recommendations for the Elk Harvest

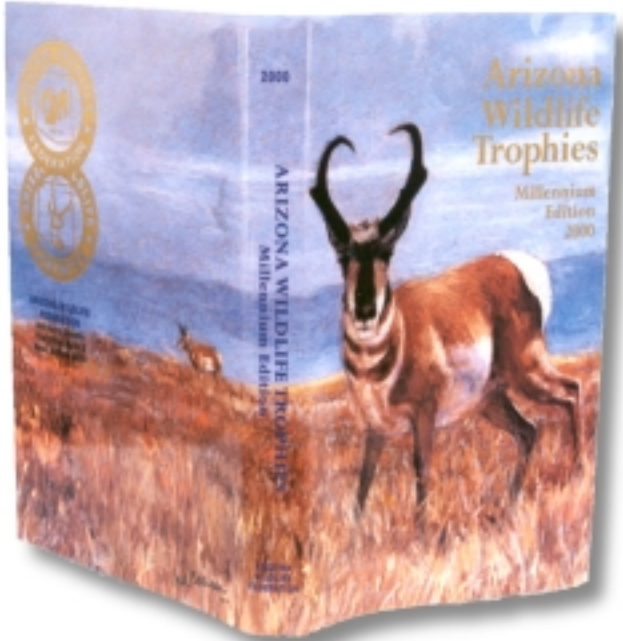
Strategy Management Report for using pre-established hunter pools for "unplanned" elk harvest opportunities. Opening the rule will also allow the department to address delegating commission authority to the department's director for specifying when and where to use certain population reduction hunts and to establish nonpermit tag numbers or quotas and time frames for such hunts.

R12-4-609 – Is being opened to allow pre-established hunter pools and to delegate increased authority to the department's director to specify where and when to use certain population reduction hunts. In essence, modifying this rule could allow the director to set an emergency season in situations requiring short notice for habitat management or private land issues.

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Venonmous -- Continued from page 16

The Tucson airport was staked out by the Arizona Game and Fish Department and the suspect showed up. His baggage was searched and the snake was found in a suitcase but it had died of suffocation.

The burglary at Fort Huachuca was a federal offense, so it was decided to charge the alleged offender under the new protected species law in an Arizona court. This was the first case involving a

rattlesnake to be tried under a prohibited wildlife regulation. He was found guilty and fined \$300, the maximum under the statute. Under current animal cruelty provision the culprit could face additional charges for causing the snake to suffocate.

In strict compliance with Arizona law, a person may not take any kind of wildlife without a hunting license or proper permit. This includes killing a rattlesnake unless it can be proven to be

in self-defense.

DR. J. A. Fowlie of the University of California identified 82 species and subspecies of snakes in Arizona, including 16 different rattlesnakes. Except for the coral snake and rattlesnakes all the others are considered non-venomous. However, the vine snake and lyre snake, to subdue their prey, inject venom from grooved teeth in the back of the upper jaw. So they are sometimes called a back-fanged snake.

