

Pronghorn Capture/Collar/Release Jan. 24-26

Arizona Game and Fish Department will be coordinating a pronghorn capture for the Agua Fria Grasslands Adaptive Management Project. They will be deploying 25 GPS collars in GMU 21 and the eastern portion of 19A. This project is a collaborative effort between AGFD, BLM, USFS, ASU, and AAF (AAF provided funding for the refurbishment of 5 of the collars that will be deployed in GMU 21). All apologies for the late notice. Although these dates (Tuesday January 24th - Thursday January 26th) were set back in September, several obstacles prevented a definitive green light and a final confirmation. Everything is now in order though, so they look forward to seeing as many of you out there as can make it.

This project requires lighter duty for volunteers than the Prescott Valley capture, so if you'd prefer that type of activity, head on out and glass for pronghorn on this Agua Fria Grasslands capture.

The capture will use the AGFD Horseshoe Ranch as the base of operations/staging area. Most participants will be assisting with spotting during the capture, which consists of driving existing roads or hiking to observation points and glassing for pronghorn. Once animals are spotted, the herd size/composition is relayed to the coordinator who tracks this info and directs the helicopter and fixed-wing according to collar distribution priorities.

The support of skilled Antelope Foundation members has been key to the smooth execution of at similar captures in the past. Assistance will also be required at the staging area to help re-pack deployed nets.

If you're interested and available, **please contact Scott Sprague with AGFD (ssprague@azgfd.gov) and provide the following information:**

1. Which capture days you're available for (24th, 25th, 26th) or scouting (23rd)
2. If you're interested in camping at Horseshoe Ranch (and which nights)
3. If you will have a vehicle that you're comfortable driving on gravel roads/2-tracks
4. If you need to borrow any optics/field EQ
5. Cell number (and if you're willing to share it with the whole crew)

Scott will provide further details to those that contact him. He can also provide more information about the project for anyone with questions. Thanks for your interest and your dedication.

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