**Independent Pronghorn Surveys on the Bar T Bar and Flying M Ranches**

by Larry Holland, Wildlife Biologist

In order to provide additional research, to supplement the pronghorn antelope survey numbers being reported by the Arizona Game and Fish Department, the Bar T Bar and Flying M hired a retired Arizona Game and Fish wildlife biologist to conduct pronghorn antelope surveys on their respective ranches.

Surveys on the Bar T Bar ranch were conducted for the first time June 18-22, 2002 on private and state lease lands. Surveys were done solely from the ground during this 5 day period, quite different from the aerial surveys employed by the AGFD. That first year was a particularly dry year, and as such most biologists would have expected a poor fawn crop. After the approximately 168 sections were surveyed, the final tally was 35 bucks, 42 does and 18 fawns, with a number of the fawns being twins. This yielded a fawns per 100 does ratio of 43:100, a very respectable fawn crop, especially given the dry conditions that year. Since then pronghorn antelope surveys have been conducted on the Bar T Bar during the same time period in 2003 and 2004. Results of those surveys have been: 2003: 47 bucks, 82 does and 50 fawns, fawn:100 does was 61:100;  2004:49 bucks, 51 does and 27 fawns, fawn:100 does was 53:100. In all three years, interestingly, the majority of the fawn groups were found in the northern portions of the ranch where fawning cover is the least prominent.

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"Independent Antelope Surveys on the Bar T Bar and Flying M Ranches" (Continued from page 1)

Surveys on the Flying M Ranch were also conducted in 2002, from July 13-20. Here, both private and state as well as USFS lands were surveyed. For 2002 survey results were 18 bucks, 49 does and 4 fawns, with a fawn to does ratio of 8 fawns:100 does. Surveys were not conducted in 2003 on the Flying M, but were resumed again in July of 2004. During 2004, only the private and state lands on the Flying M were surveyed. There were 4 bucks, 16 does and 11 fawns, with a ratio of 69:100. Even given the low number of observations, this fawn to does ratio was very encouraging.

Both ranches have potential for good populations of pronghorn, and Bar T Bar already has a healthy herd, with a lot of good antelope habitat. The Flying M has less good habitat, since it appears habitat has been lost to PJ encroachment over the years, greatly reducing habitat effectiveness. Hopefully all the partners can come together in the future, channel their energies in the same direction, and maintain or improve pronghorn habitat, and pronghorn populations.

Stay tuned for more Pronghorn news! The February newsletter will feature the Arizona Antelope Foundation.

Volunteers! If you wish to experience collaboration first-hand, call 523-0588 for more info!

Getting to Know.....
Jill Manion

Jill Manion was born and raised in southern New Jersey. Her childhood allowed her to explore wildlife in the woods and learn about responsibility to the land. Her father worked in the building material business, fostering the belief that natural landscape is beautiful to enjoy but also provides the necessities of life for all Americans.

Jill first became exposed to the West in 2002 when her fiancé moved to Tucson. She moved to Flagstaff last year to attend Northern Arizona University to work on her MA in Rural Geography. Her concentration is on community planning and her thesis is on water conservation policy in Northern Arizona. Jill became concerned with water issues while living in the desert, since conservation seemed much more active in the water-rich northeast.

As an intern for the Diablo Trust, Jill has helped with the Art Show, administrative tasks, and research for the Rural Planning Area. Jill says that working with the Diablo Trust has really helped her get a feel for the issues that face citizens in the rural West: "While attending the meetings, I get to learn the concerns from people in government and agencies, the ranchers and because it's the Thanksgiving season, Bob and I want to thank a few special people for their contributions this past year. Hadassah, for her incredible enthusiasm and gratitude (what is she thinking of?!) for the position she has. Mandy, for her optimism, creative ideas (Balloons over Diablo!), and unpaid hours. Norm Walien, for his persistence and for always being there. Gail Lowe for her tedious hours with our accounting records. And many others, for countless volunteer hours this year—THANK YOU! There are some of you on our mailing list that we haven’t seen in years and still miss your contributions in our early years (and some of you are still contributing). Steve Callish, Bruce Gordon, Gary & Claire Dorgan and others—we hope each of you are content in lives, please let us know how you are! HAPPY HOLIDAYS TO ALL!
More News and Views:

Sunshine Wind Park

Most of the energy sources we depend on, such as coal and natural gas, cannot be replaced - once we use them up, they are gone forever. With conventional resources, we also face mounting pollution problems that result in global warming and respiratory ailments.

There has been an enormous increase in the demand for energy since the middle of the last century as a result of industrial development and population growth. We entered the 20th century with a world population of less than two billion people. We started the 21st century with more than six billion. We are now adding one billion people every fourteen years. At this rate of growth world population will double in just over fifty years (www.populationconnection.org). Our energy resources and our environment will become more strained as developing countries with large populations depend on fossil fuels to facilitate industrial growth.

Due to the problems associated with the use of fossil fuels, alternative sources of energy have become important and relevant in today’s world. Renewable sources such as the sun and wind can never be exhausted. Also known as non-conventional sources of energy, they cause less emission and are available locally. Their use can significantly reduce chemical, radioactive, and thermal pollution. They are viable sources of clean and limitless energy. Most of the renewable sources of energy are fairly non-polluting and considered clean (http://edugreen.teri.res.in/explore/n_renew/ener.htm).

In 2003, the U.S. wind generating capacity increased by more than 30%. Wind power plants of various sizes now operate in 32 states with a total generating capacity of 6374 MW of power, enough to meet the energy needs of more than 3 million homes. The research and development conducted under the U.S. Department of Energy (DOE) Wind and Hydropower Technologies program (www.eere.energy.gov) has been a key element contributing to the rapid growth of wind energy in the United States. The mission of the DOE’s wind policy is to support the President’s National Energy Policy published in 2001 by increasing the viability and use of advanced wind energy technology (www.nrel.gov/docs/fy04osti/34915.pdf).

A challenge faced by the ranches of the Diablo Trust has been how to be rewarded for providing open space while finding a way to pass debt-free ownership of the ranches to the next generation. Developing wind energy could be a solution. Wind parks throughout the nation enable ranchers and farmers to diversify their economic base and preserve traditional land uses. Conservation benefits include protecting wildlife habitat and watersheds from development and offsetting fossil-fuel generation that requires large amounts of water and emits toxic pollutants.

For these reasons, the Flying M Ranch, in collaboration with Northern Arizona University and Southwest Wind Power, has put up a test anemometer to track wind corridors on their lands. Also, the Bar T Bar Ranch in collaboration with the Hopi Tribe, another private land owner and Sunshine Arizona Wind Energy submitted an application for a conditional use permit with Coconino County Community Development November 22. They propose to put up forty state-of-the-art wind turbines near the Meteor Crater exit of Interstate 40.

The Diablo Trust supports these projects as we believe the overall effects of the proposal will be supportive of Diablo Trust goals, particularly in assisting the economic viability of the ranches; in maintaining largely undeveloped open space; in providing a needed source of sustainable energy; and, in providing educational opportunities.

Below is a projected image of what the windmills would look like at the selected wind park site. The images were copied with permission from www.sunshinewind.com (IMAGE 3- Looking Northwest towards San Francisco Peaks from I-40 exit 233 for Meteor Crater, nearest turbines 1.5 miles)
On November 12, 2004 the Diablo Trust held the last of four workshops on the Diablo Canyon Rural Planning area. The first was on conservation easements and was reported on in the July newsletter. The second workshop was on September 10 and was on wind power. The workshop was presented by Lucinda Andreani and Dennis Dudzik. Lucinda is an energy consultant located in Flagstaff and Dennis is with an engineering firm in Sacramento. The workshop was entitled “Wind Power 101” and was a very thorough introduction to the wind energy industry. The industry is being driven by alternative energy requirements being placed on power companies and by tax incentives. The towers most in use now are much larger than those previously used, for example at Tehachapi Pass in CA, and vary from 60 to 100 meters to the hub, or over 400 feet from the ground to the tip of the blade. The use of private land for the placement of wind towers can be quite lucrative for the landowner, with a base land lease plus royalties based on sale of power. Prospective sites must be in areas with good wind and must be somewhat near existing utility lines, preferably 69 kV lines.

On October 8, a workshop on ecotourism was presented, by Jonathan Duncan of the Institute for Ecotourism in Sedona. And a talk by John Nelson of the USFS. Jonathan talked about the growth of ecotourism and the ideal situation Arizona is in to capitalize on this interest. Wildlife viewing, horseback riding, hiking, mountain biking, and generally enjoying a rustic Western experience are all very viable economic enterprises. John Nelson discussed some of the existing uses such as geo-caching, mountain biking and bird watching, and said the Forest Service needs partners to make recreational opportunities work. There are also opportunities to provide services to hunters including guiding and assistance in hauling out animals. Rustic cabin rental such as the Forest Service has initiated also has potential.

The final workshop was on housing development and was presented by Bill Towler. Bill discussed the options including sale and/or development of selected ranch holdings, development of a small number of scattered homesites as Heritage Ranch has done in New Mexico, setting aside a certain percentage of the ranches for 40-acre lot development, and transferring all development rights to a corner of the property. He discussed certain examples such as Routt County, Colorado where ranchers are encouraged to create smaller parcels than allowed by zoning with protection of a large percentage of the land as open space. He also discussed a process of determining how to identify resources in order to protect conservation areas that in turn can be used to delineate what areas could be developed.

At the next Diablo Trust meeting on December 17 there will be a review of the RPA process to date and a look at maps of the Diablo Trust area to do an initial look at conservation area identification.

Odds’ N Ends: Diablo Trust Report

We are very pleased to announce that there are now three Diablo Trust participants who have been elected to serve on the Coconino County Board of Supervisors. Deb Hill and Matt Ryan were both re-elected, and Carl Taylor has been newly elected. Congratulations! Also, a long-time collaborator with the Diablo Trust, Tommy Martin, has been elected to serve on the Gila County Board of Supervisors. Congratulations! Also, Hadassah Holland, the Program Manager for the Diablo Trust, has been selected to be a 2005 Flagstaff Leadership Program class member. Many Diablo Trustees are FLP grads!

In September, the Diablo Trust hosted a Garden Club of America educational tour. The organization is respected in Washington as a knowledgeable group of volunteers who care about the environment. The purpose of this presentation was to share with them, the perspectives of different members of the Diablo Trust about how effective and complex collaborative management of land resources can be. The tour went exceptionally well and we anticipate collaboration opportunities with the Garden Club of America in the future. Many thanks to Joan Murphy for her invaluable organizational skills.

We are excited to announce that the Diablo Trust IMaSo (Integrated Monitoring for Sustainability) Project is underway. We have covered and discussed a lot of material on the utility of the monitoring tool - the Holistic Ecosystem Health Indicator (HEHI) - and its relevance to Diablo Trust goals; reached an understanding and agreement on the categories included in the tool; and agreed to work together to implement it over the next year. Look for details in the February newsletter.

Money Matters

Your donations enable the Diablo Trust to continue its efforts to provide the community with a “living laboratory” to welcome diverse points of view, promote research, and explore innovative ways to help all of us live in harmony with the land.

Tax-deductible donations may be sent to:

The Diablo Trust
Post Office Box 5058

Diablo Trust Working Groups

and Chairpersons

Education – Norm Wallen/Norm Lowe
Website – Tom Gewecke
Watershed – Jack Metzger & Bob Prosser
Economic Diversification – Norm Lowe
Wildlife – Cathy Taylor
Science and Monitoring – Tom Sisk/Norm Wallen
Maps – Doc Smith
Rural Planning Area – Carl Taylor
Diablo Trust Artists Program – Rachel Wilson
Operating Team – Carl Taylor, Jim Highsmith, Norm Lowe, Norm Wallen, Mandy Metzger, Flying M Ranch, Bar T Bar Roads – Jack Metzger

!MARK YOUR CALENDARS FOR THESE UPCOMING EVENTS!

December 17 - Diablo Trust Monthly Meeting; Diablo Canyon Rural Planning Area
December 19 – Diablo Trust Christmas Party
February 25 & 26 – Diablo Trust Annual Meeting

For more detailed information about upcoming events, please visit our website at www.diablotrust.org
About the Diablo Trust

The Diablo Trust, a not-for-profit 501 (c) (3) corporation, is an Arizona Land Management Team and National Reinventing Government Laboratory. Land-specific to 426,000 acres of mixed ownership lands, the Trust began in 1993 when two long-time Arizona ranchers, of the Bar-T-Bar and the Flying M Ranch, called together people they knew cared for the land. The ranchers asked people for ideas to assist them in the protection of open spaces and healthy habitats. Today, the Trust, open to everyone, provides a forum for the community to actively participate in a land stewardship process. Additionally, the ranch lands provide “hands-on” proving grounds for new, collaborative land management ideas and land research.

FOR MORE INFORMATION OR TO PARTICIPATE, PLEASE CONTACT:

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Norm Lowe, President Mandy R. Metzger, Director Hadassah Holland, Program Manager Tom Gewecke, Web Design Jill Munson, Intern

If you wish to be removed from this mailing list, please contact us at the above number.

Diablo Trust

Learning from the Land – and Sharing Our Knowledge … So There Will Always Be a West!

See inside for a calendar of upcoming events!