



# The Alberta Fish & Game Association

6924 – 104 Street Edmonton, AB T6H 2L7

Phone: (780) 437-2342 Fax: (780) 438-6872

email: [office@afga.org](mailto:office@afga.org) Website: [www.afga.org](http://www.afga.org)

## **FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

### **Collaborative Pronghorn Fencing Project a Huge Success – Second Phase to Focus on Key Migration Corridors**

(Edmonton July 8, 2009) ... Alberta's largest conservation group, the Alberta Fish Game Association (AFGA) will carry out phase 2 of its *Pronghorn Antelope Travel Corridor Enhancement Project*. July 9 through 12, 2009 over 20 volunteers will gather north of Medicine Hat and on Antelope Creek Ranch near Brooks to create 40 kilometres (25 miles) of wildlife-friendly fence along known pronghorn migration corridors. This multi-stakeholder project involves several sponsors, affiliates and supporting agencies. Based on the overwhelming success of the initial work done in April 2009 along CFB Suffield's north boundary, existing and new project supporters are eager to proceed with the second phase.

"This is a great project," says AFGA President Quentin Bochar. "Barbed wire fences create barriers for pronghorn antelope as well as for other ungulate species. Wildlife-friendly fences are a priority and, given the benefits we've seen from the first phase, we're excited about proceeding in other areas as well."

As a rule, antelope crawl under fences rather than jump over them. Many barbed wire fences are constructed with the bottom strand only 30 centimetres (12 inches), or less, off the ground - too low to allow pronghorn to move freely. In turn, many antelope are funneled along fences until they can locate a suitable place to cross. With the matrix of barbed wire fences throughout southern Alberta, fencing structures are very prohibitive. Likewise, many pronghorn lose swatches of hair as barbs snag their hides as they cross underneath. In extreme cold conditions, this exposes flesh and endangers the animal. This fencing initiative is designed to alleviate this problem.

According to Project Manager, Kevin Wilson, "during the first round of fencing, the bottom barbed wire was removed and replaced with double-stranded smooth wire at a universally accepted height of 46 centimetres (18 inches). This same standard will be used for phase 2. Further, during the first project key crossing points were identified and motion cameras were installed. Thousands of images were captured showing that the smooth wire was indeed more permeable and less imposing on the pronghorn."

Phase 2 of this project is made possible, thanks to financial support from the Alberta Conservation Association Grant Eligible Program, EnCana, AFGA, and the Medicine Hat Fish & Game Association. Other project partners include Alberta Sustainable Resource Development, Alberta Conservation Association, Medicine Hat Fish & Game Association, the Minister's Special License Program, Brooks and District Fish & Game Association, Southern Alberta Bowhunters Association, and Treebark Trail Cameras.

For more information or to schedule an on-site interview, call Kevin Wilson at 780.913.1021 or e-mail: [kwilson@tbwfi.ca](mailto:kwilson@tbwfi.ca).

The Alberta Fish and Game Association is a not-for-profit volunteer organization proud to serve Albertans in the promotion of the wise use of our fish and wildlife resources and the conservation of their habitats. The AFGA has been active since 1908 in working towards these goals and has a province-wide membership of more than 19,000 individuals spread among 100+ Clubs.

-30-

**CONTACT: Kevin Wilson, Project Manager, (780) 913-1021 or [kwilson@tbwfi.ca](mailto:kwilson@tbwfi.ca)  
Martin Sharren, Executive Vice President, (780) 437-2342**